

TOWN AND PARISHES OF PAISLEY.*

PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

<i>Ministers.</i>	<i>Parishes.</i>
THE REV. ROBERT MACNAIR, A. M., }	Abbey.
THE REV. PATRICK BREWSTER, }	
THE REV. ROBERT BURNS, D. D., . . .	St. George's.
THE REV. JOHN MACNAUGHTAN, A. M., . . .	High.
THE REV. ROBERT STEVENSON, . . .	Middle.
THE REV. ALEXANDER TELFER, A. M., . . .	Johnston.
THE REV. JOHN CAMPBELL, . . .	Gaelic.†
THE REV. JAMES GRAHAM, . . .	North.
THE REV. JOHN M'FARLANE, . . .	Martyrs.
THE REV. ANDREW BORLAND PARKER, A. M.,	Levern.
THE REV. ALEXANDER SALMON, . . .	South.

L—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

THE portion of Renfrewshire to which our attention is now to be directed, was, previous to the year 1736, all included in one parish, known by the name of the parish of Paisley. The town of Paisley is the only part of it, which, by a deed of the Court of Teinds, has been erected into distinct parishes. Its magistrates, however, are still regarded as heritors in the original parish, and, as such, pay a proportion of the stipend, and retain a certain number of sittings in the church. Since the act of the General Assembly, by which Chapels of Ease were raised to the status of parish churches, Johnstone, in the western district, has been so elevated, and the church at Levern, in the south-eastern district, is about to have a parish assigned to it. Meantime, it will be convenient to consider the whole as forming one parish, especially as the town of Paisley occupies but a small extent of surface, and is completely surrounded, by what is now, by way of distinction, called the Abbey parish.

Etymology.—We are indebted for the following ingenious observations on the etymology of the word Paisley, as well as on that of various places situated in the parish, to William Kerr, Esq. surgeon, Paisley.

* Drawn up by the Rev. Dr Burns and the Rev. Robert Macnair.

† A separate parish is not assigned to the minister of the Gaelic Church.

“ At Paisley, the Romans had a station or town, which antiquarians regard as the *Vanduaria* of Ptolemy. The most probable conjecture concerning the etymology of this name, is given by Chalmers, who believes it to be the Latinized form of the British words *wen dur*, or *white water*, applied by the natives to the river White Cart, which flowed past the eastern wall of the camp. The Romans entered Scotland in the year 80, and left it in 446. *Vanduaria* must, therefore, have flourished at some period between these years. After the retreat of the Roman forces, the name was lost, and no place connected with its site is found in history, till the middle of the twelfth century, when lands on the bank of the river opposite to the camp are mentioned under the names of *Passeleth*, *Passelay*, and *Passelet*. The earliest mode of spelling is *Passeleth*, and is found in a charter granted by David I.* In the next century, Paisley occurs in one paper as *Passeleht*. The terminations in *let* and *lay* occur most frequently, and seem to have been used indifferently, till the middle of the sixteenth century, when the orthography commonly employed became *Paslay*. Chalmers mentions two etymologies of the name, the first *Pasgel-laith*, which, in the ancient British, signifies moist pasture ground; the second *Baslech* in the British, and *Bas-leac* in the Gaelic, which signify ‘*the flat stone shoal*,’ supposed to have been applied to a ledge of rock which runs across the channel of the river White Cart. † That these etymologies rest on a foundation little better than resemblance in sound, is evident, from the meaning of the one being so widely different from that of the other. The difficulty of ascertaining the origin of the name of Paisley is somewhat diminished, by the existence, in ancient times, of two places of the same name in England, one in Sussex, the other in Gloucestershire; and more than one place, in which Paisley formed the first part of the name. In the ancient documents published by the Record Commission, ‡ the spelling of these places scarcely differs from the most ancient forms of the Scottish Paisley. The first syllable is either ‘*Passe*,’ ‘*Pese*,’ or ‘*Pis* ;’ and the last syllable ‘*Leghe*’ or ‘*Ley*.’ In the same documents, *Stainley*, *Thornley*, and the other names terminating in *Ley*, are likewise found terminating in *Leghe*, indicating that these terminations were understood by the

* Vol. published by the Maitland Club, in 1831, p. 229.

† Chalmers' *Caledonia*, Vol. iii. p. 819. The meaning of *Bas*, as given by Armstrong and M'Alpine in their Gaelic Dictionaries, is different from that assigned by Chalmers. By them *Bas* is the palm of the hand, and *Bás* “*death*.”

‡ *Inquisitiones post mortem, inquisitiones nonarum, rotuli hundredorum, calendarium rotulorum chartarum.*

Saxon inhabitants. *Legh* and *Ley*, which were pronounced as they are spelled, are in fact the Anglo-Saxon words for lea or fallow ground,* and there can scarcely be a doubt, that the last syllable *Leht*, *Leth*, *Let*, and *Ley* of the Scottish Paisley, are the same words modified by a slight difference of dialect.

“The words in the same language which resemble the first syllable are *pais* peace, and *pisa* peas. The last of these, in the progress of language towards old Scotch, became *Pese*, which agrees with the modern pronunciation of Paisley. *Paislet* or *Paisley*, would be the lea of Peace, and *Peselet*, or *Pesley* the Peas-lea. The only argument against the first of these being the true etymology, is, that history is silent respecting the conclusion of a peace at this place. With regard to the second supposition, peas undoubtedly gave names to places at very early periods, such names being found in the ancient records already referred to, as early as the reign of Henry III. In these records, the names of different kinds of crops are found in combination with *leghe* or *lay*, such as corn, oats, wheat, bear, or barley, and beans, and afford a curious illustration of the vegetables cultivated in early times. † On the supposition of Paisley receiving its name from peas, it would originally signify lea ground which had carried peas. ‡

“There are two places in the Abbey parish, which, probably like Paisley, terminated indifferently in *let* or *ley*, but which have retained the termination *let*, viz. the village of *Hurlet*, and the farm of *Caplet* hill. In the ancient records already quoted, there is mentioned a place in Berkshire, sometimes spelled *Hurlegh*, and at other times *Hurlé*. The first syllable *Hur* seems to be the word *Hare*, which in old names, changes to *Har*, *Hor*, and *Hur*. *Hurlet* is consequently *Harelea*, the *Lea* frequented by hares. § Illustrative of the termination *let*, may be mentioned *Horselet*-hill, in the parish of *Govan*, the etymology of which, agreeably to the foregoing conclusions, is quite easy; but, on the supposition of *Let* being British or Gaelic, is involved in difficulties.

“Besides Paisley, the places in the Abbey parish, terminating in

* *Legh* and *Ley* are translated in *Lye's Anglo-Saxon Dictionary* *Terra loculta*, *Novale*, *Campus*, *Passarum*.

† See *Tytler's History of Scotland*, Vol. ii. p. 216.

‡ In *Shakspeare*, there is an instance of *lea* applied to ground bearing crops.

“*Ceres most bounteous lady, thy rich leas
Of wheat, rye, barley, fitches, oats, and peas.*”

§ In two returns of the seventeenth century, this place is spelled *Hulst* and *Halrett*; the first of which may be translated the *Wood-lea*. The name at present is universally pronounced *Hurlet*.

ley, are Eldersley, Stainley, Thornley, Collinsley, Relees, *i. e.* Ryelees, and a farm united to it, called Halylee."

Mr Kerr's observations on the etymology, &c. of some other names of places in the parish will be found in the subjoined note.*

* "Names derived from the British, the Gaelic, and the Anglo Saxon, are found within the parish. Those derived from the most ancient of these, the British, are, with one exception, names of streams and hills. The rivers White and Black Cart have probably received their name from *Cardd*, which signifies narrow, a name given, perhaps, in contrasting these rivers with Clyde or Gryfe. Lavern, according to Chalmers, is from *Laver*, noisy, and *an*, stream. Arkleston hill, probably from *Arwl*, prospect, and *Dun*, hill. This hill, though rising only about 160 feet above the level of the adjoining low ground, presents a most delightful and extensive prospect, which may vie with the most celebrated in Scotland. Every one who visits this district, and wishes to behold its beauty and richness, ought to make an excursion to the summit of *Arwl Dun*. Rather more than a mile to the east of this hill, is a similar elevation, called *Keir hill*, from an ancient British fort on its top, the vestiges of which still exist, and show the wall to have enclosed a circle of about seventy yards in diameter. *Cardonald*, an old mansion, which stands on level ground, on the bank of the river White Cart, exhibits no indications of remote antiquity, except the name. *Caer* and *Keir* signify in British, castle or fort.

"The Gaelic language is found, like the British, in the names of streams, and hills, and likewise of several farms. *All-patrick* is Patrick's burn. *Espedair* burn is *cas* a small stream descending rapidly from hills, and *Peadar*, Peter. The highest eastern point of the range of hills, celebrated by the muse of Tannahill as the '*Bracs o' Gleniffer*,' is called the *Duchal-law*, a name which seems to be a compound of the Gaelic word *Dhu*, black or dark, and *Choille* growing wood, and the Anglo-Saxon *Hleaw*, a grassy hill. The descent eastward, from this law, forms the extremity of the range of hills, and being much higher than the surrounding country, forms a kind of promontory, which receives the name of *Ferneze*, *Ferineeze* or *Fernyneeze*. In ancient documents, it occurs *Ferénes*, and Latinized *Ferineisum*. *Nese* in Anglo-Saxon signifies nose. *Firrin* is used by *Gawin Douglas* as the adjective of *Fir*; and in the English parliamentary writs in the reign of Edward II., a person of the name *Ferendraught* is likewise called *Fernedraught*, proving that *Ferne* is identical with *Ferné*. *Ferneeze* and its modifications, therefore, mean the *Firnose*, and imply that this declivity was in ancient times, as it is at present, covered with fir, which would probably be the dark wood, that, at an early period, gave name to *Duchal-law*. Of *Gleniffer*, no satisfactory etymology can be found in the British or Gaelic. It is probably a compound of the Anglo-Saxon *gfer* upper,* an appellation to which it is well entitled, as from the low grounds it appears a cleft on the top of the hills. †

"Names of dwellings derived from the Gaelic are few in number. The great proportion of names of mansions and farms are derived from the Anglo-Saxon. It is probable, that in the eleventh century, or when the Gaelic ceased to be the language of this part of the country, the names of many places would be translated into the new language, and others would have names imposed, without any regard to their former meaning, so that from the number of places still bearing Gaelic names, we cannot form any idea of the number of farms in the parish, while it was a Gaelic district. Much light may be thrown upon the languages which existed in this country, by a minute examination of the etymology of its different districts, and in the absence of any written documents in the Gothic language called the *Scoto-Saxon*, the names of places still exhibit some of the points of resemblance and of difference from the Anglo-Saxon.

"*Sneddon*, now forming part of the town, is probably the Anglo-Saxon *Snidan*, a portion cut off, from the verb *sneddan*. In more modern times, *Clippens*, in this neighbourhood, received its name in the same way. ‡

* See Jamieson's supplement to his Scottish Dictionary, word *Ever*.

† Another derivation has been furnished to us, by a good Gaelic scholar, from the Gaelic *Gleun Glen*, and *Jubher*, (the *bh* in Gaelic sounding *v*) yew tree, which makes it the *Glen of yews*.

‡ *Sneddon* has also been considered as a corruption of *Snaudon*, or *Snowdon*, and as furnishing a title to the Prince of Wales, being Prince of Scotland. "The

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish of Paisley is situated in the upper ward of the county, and in the finest part of it. It may be regarded, in point of extent, the third in Renfrewshire, and in point of value, by far the first. Its distance from the Clyde is little more than 2 miles. Its extreme length from north-east to south-west, is nearly 9 miles. In breadth it varies from half a mile to about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, being deeply indented on all sides by corners of adjoining parishes. In consequence of this, notwithstanding its great length, and in some parts breadth, it measures little more than about 16000 acres. It is bounded on the north and north-east by the parishes of Renfrew and Govan; on the east and south-east by those of Eastwood and Neilston; on the south and south-west, by those of Neilston and Lochwinnoch; and on the west by the parish of Kilbarchan.

Topographical Appearances.—Near the centre of the parish in N. Lat. $55^{\circ} 48'$ and W. Long. $4^{\circ} 26'$ on a bold terrace-like ridge, rises the town of Paisley. Much of it is built on that ridge, and on one of a similar description, which runs parallel on the south. The distance of the cross of Paisley from that of Glasgow is about $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles; and from the Clyde, which flows north of it, about 3. The surface occupied by what is properly called the old town, or the burgh of Paisley, is about a mile square; but in speaking of Paisley, we must include its populous suburbs in the Abbey parish, especially those now within the parliamentary burgh, which is spread over a surface of about 3 miles by $2\frac{1}{2}$, and contains about 6 square miles, including a small portion of the parish of Renfrew. The general surface of the Abbey parish is of a beautifully diversified character. Around the town of Paisley, except to the northward, many gentle eminences, some in cultivation, and others in wood, "impart their beauty to the scene." Northward of the town, the surface is flat, principally indeed consisting of reclaimed moss. But the southern border of the parish, rises into what are called the

"There are two names derived from Latin, which have probably been imposed by the monks. Sacel-hill, receives its name from a *Sacellum* or chapel, which stood at its base, and from which a small cluster of houses is still called *the chapel*. *Blada*, a piece of ground adjoining the Sacel-mill seems to be *Bladum*, grain, a word frequently found in the barbarous Latin of the middle ages."

titles are themselves Scottish," says the writer of the article Paisley in the Edinburgh Encyclopædia, speaking of the Prince of Wales as Baron of Snowdon, Snaudon, and Renfrew. "Now, as the Stewart family had long their chief seat in Renfrewshire, and the lands of Snaudon, near Paisley, formed, in all probability, a part of the patrimonial inheritance of that illustrious house, it does not seem at all improbable, that the baronial title of Snowdon, actually coupled with that of Renfrew, was derived from the very lands in question."—Encyc. Vol. xvi. p. 270.

Paisley or Stanely Braes, known also, at least in one part, as *the Braes of Gleniffer*. The highest point of these braes, as lately ascertained by measurement, reaches an elevation of 760 feet above the surface of the river Cart, at high water mark at Paisley. Though here and there interspersed with moss and heath, they in general afford good sheep pasture, and where they decline into lower ground, a considerable part of the land is in cultivation.

As the surface of this extensive parish is of varied character, so also is there variety in the nature and qualities of its soil. Speaking of the soil generally, it is thin, resting on a bottom of gravel or till, and very retentive of moisture. At the same time, no inconsiderable portion of it is rich, fertile, and productive. This is especially the case with those parts which lie along the banks of the rivers; and it is reasonable to think, that as much of the soil of this extensive parish as is capable of cultivation, will very soon be brought under it; the large town, and the populous villages in the parish and its neighbourhood, as well as its vicinity to Glasgow, affording at once means of improvement, and a ready market for produce.

Meteorology.—The temperature is upon the whole mild. The air is rather moist, probably occasioned by the prevalence of west and south-west winds from the Atlantic. The following meteorological tables are abridged from observations by Dr Rodman, physician in Paisley, who has been kind enough to favour us with more extended tables for the whole of the year 1829, and for nine months of 1832, the year in which cholera made its appearance.

		1829.			
		JANUARY.			
<i>Weather.</i>		<i>Wind</i>		<i>Therm. Bar.—Inches.</i>	
Mild,	14 days	E.	12 days		
Frosty,	11	S. E.	19		
Snowy,	3		—		
Rainy,	2		31		
Clear,	1				
	—31				
		FEBRUARY.			
Mild,	6 days	E.	17 days		
Frosty,	7	S. E. & E.	2		
Snowy,	1	E. & S. E.	3		
Rainy,	12	S. E.	6		
Clear,	3		—		
	—28		28		
		MARCH.			
Mild,	17	E.	14 days	Varied from	Varied from
Frosty,	6	S. E.	10	57° to 52°	30 to 28 $\frac{1}{2}$
Snowy,	2	N. E.	4		
Rainy,	6	W.	2		
	—	E. & S. S. E.	1		
	81		—31		

		APRIL.		Therm.	Bar.—Inches.
Weather.		Wind.			
Mild,	10 days	N. E.	3 days	Varied from 57° to 52°	Varied from 30 to 28½
Rainy,	17	N. W.	5		
Clear,	3	E.	7		
—	—	S. E.	5		
30	—	W.	6		
		S. W.	2		
		N.	2		
			—30		

		MAY.		Therm.	Bar.—Inches.
Weather.		Wind.			
Mild,	6 days	W.	15 days	Varied from 54° to 69°	Varied from 29.3 to 29.2
Rainy,	8	N. W.	2		
Clear,	17	S. W.	2		
—	—	S.	1		
31	—	S. E.	2		
		E.	5		
		N. E.	4		
			—		
			31		

		JUNE.		Therm.	Bar.—Inches.
Weather.		Wind.			
Mild,	3 days	W.	15 days	Varied from 61° to 72°	Varied from 29.7 to 29.9
Rainy,	16	S. W.	6		
Clear,	8	N. E.	4		
Cloudy,	3	E. by S.	1		
—	—	E.	3		
30	—	S. E.	1		
			—		
			30		

		JULY.		Therm.	Bar.—Inches.
Weather.		Wind.			
Mild,	6 days	N. E.	7	Varied from 63° to 68°	Varied from 29. to 29.7
Rainy,	17	S. W.	8		
Clear,	5	W.	5		
Cloudy,	3	N. W.	6		
—	—	S.	3		
31	—	W. by S.	1		
		E.	1		
			—		
			31		

		AUGUST.		Therm.	Bar.—Inches.
Weather.		Wind.			
Mild,	3 days	W.	4 days	Varied from 61° to 69°	Varied from 29.1 to 29.7½
Rainy,	15	S. W.	2		
Clear,	9	N. W.	11		
Cloudy,	4	N.	3		
—	—	N. N. W.	1		
31	—	N. E.	4		
		E.	2		
		S. W.	1		
		W. & E.	1		
		E. to W.	1		
		W. N. W.	1		
			—		
			31		

RENFREWSHIRE.

Weather.		SEPTEMBER.		Therm.	Bar.—Inches.
		Wind.	7 days	Varied from	Varied from
Mild,	4 days	N. W.	7 days	58° to 67°	29.01
Rainy,	16	W.	5		to
Clear,	10	S. W.	10		29.07½
	—	S. E.	1		
	30	E.	1		
		N. E.	3		
		E. to W.	1		
		S.	1		
		N.	1		
			—30		
		OCTOBER.		Therm.	Bar.—Inches.
		Wind.	7 days	Varied from	Varied from
Mild,	6 days	W.	7 days	55° to 61°	29.02½
Rainy,	16	N. W.	7		to
Clear,	6	S. W.	7		29.08
Cloudy,	3	N.	3		
	—	N. E.	3		
	31	S. E.	1		
		E.	2		
		S.	1		
			—31		
		NOVEMBER.		Therm.	Bar.—Inches.
		Wind.	4 days	Varied from	Varied from
Mild,	5 days	N. W.	4 days	48° to 58°	29.03½
Rainy,	20	W.	6		to
Clear frost,	5	S. W.	5		29.09
	—	S. E.	3		
	30	N. E.	9		
		N.	2		
		E.	2		
			—30		
		DECEMBER.		Therm.	Bar.—Inches.
		Wind.	7 days	Varied from	Varied from
Mild,	5	S. E.	3	45° to 58°	29.04
Rainy,	12	E.	11		to
Clear & frosty,	10	S.	2		29.09½
Cloudy,	4	S. W.	4		
	—	W.	3		
	31	N. W.	1		
		N. E.	7		
			—31		

The notices of the weather in the foregoing tables were marked down only once a day, at nine in the evening.

Register for nine months of 1832.

		FEBRUARY 1832.		Therm.	Bar.—Inches.
		Wind.	1 day	Varied from	Varied from
Mild,	6 days	E. to N.	1 day	48° to 55°	29 to 30
Rainy,	7	E. N. E.	1		
Frosty,	4	W. N. W.	3		
	—	W.	2		
	17	S. E. to E.	1		
		E.	3		
		E. to S. W.	1		
		S. W.	2		
		N. W. to E.	1		
		E. to E. N. E.	1		
		S. W. to W.	1		
			—17		

The other days not included.

Weather.		MARCH.		Therm.	Bar.—Inches.
		Wind.			
Mild,	8 days	S. W.	6 days	Varied from	Varied from
Rainy,	14	S.	2	48° to 58°	29 to 30
Frosty,	3	W. to S. W.	4		
Blowy,	6	W.	7		
	31	W. to S.	2		
		E. to S. E.	1		
		W. to N. W.	3		
		N. W.	5		
		N.	1		
			—31		
		APRIL.			
Mild,	10 days	S. W.	7 days	Varied from	Varied from
Rainy,	14	N. E.	11	53° to 60°	29 to 30.2
Blowy,	5	W.	4		
Thunder,	1	N. W.	1		
	30	N. E. to E.	2		
		E.	1		
		S. E. to E.	3		
		W. to S. E.	1		
			—30		
		MAY.			
Mild,	13 days	E.	2 days	Varied from	Varied from
Rainy,	12	N. E.	13	53° to 64°	29.7 to 30.1
Clear,	6	S. W. to W.	7		
	31	N. W.	4		
		S. E.	1		
		S. W.	3		
		W.	1		
			—31		
		JUNE.			
Mild,	10 days	N. E.	7 days	Varied from	Varied from
Rainy,	12	S. W.	5	62° to 68°	29.5 to 30.4
Clear,	8	N. W.	2		
	30	N.	1		
		The other days very changeable.			
		JULY.			
Mild,	13 days	N. E.	3 days	Varied from	Varied from
Rainy,	8	S. to S.	1	63° to 71°	29.7 to 30.4
Clear,	10	S. W.	4		
	31	W.	1		
		N. W.	3		
		E.	1		
		The other days very changeable.			
		AUGUST.			
Mild,	7 days	N. E.	5	Varied from	Varied from
Rainy,	18	S. W.	8	63° to 72°	29.5 to 30.2
Clear,	6	The other days very changeable.			
	31				
		SEPTEMBER.			
Mild,	11 days	N. E.	6 days	Varied from	Varied from
Rainy,	10	S. W.	9	59° to 66°	29.6 to 30.5
Clear,	9	N. W.	1		
	—30	The other days very changeable.			

		OCTOBER.			
<i>Weather.</i>		<i>Wind.</i>		<i>Therm.</i>	
Mild,	7 days	S. W.	9 days	Varied from	<i>Bar.—Inches.</i>
Rainy,	19	W.	8	5° to 65°	Varied from
Clear,	5	N. E.	3		29. to 30.5
—		The other days very			
30		changeable.			

The months of January, November, and December of 1832 are not included in Dr Rodman's tables. But from a register kept at the Gas-works, we find that the barometer varied in January from 29°.4 to 30°.4; in November from 29° to 30°.5; and in December from 29° to 30°.4.

Barometer 1836.

January, varied from	29. to 30.4 inch	July, varied from	29.3 to 30.1 inch
February,	28.7 to 30.3	August,	29.4 to 30.1
March,	28.7 to 30.	September,	29.1 to 30.2
April,	29. to 30.4	October,	28.5 to 29.9
May,	29.8 to 30.4	November,	28.7 to 30.
June,	29.2 to 30.1	December,	28.4 to 30.2

No rain-gauge was kept in the neighbourhood of Paisley, till 2d December 1834, when one was placed at Nethercraigs, in this parish, one mile and a-half south of the town of Paisley, about 160 feet above the level of the sea. Other two rain-gauges have, in the course of last year, been set, the one at Orr Square, Paisley, 62 feet above the level of the sea, and the other at Back Thornly Muir, one mile south of Nethercraigs, 693 feet above the level of the sea. The results of the first for two years and one month; of the second for three months; and of the third for four months of last year, are included in the following table:

		<i>Inches. 10ths.</i>									
At Nethercraigs,											
1834 Dec.		2	3								
		<hr/>									
1835,				<i>Inches. 10ths.</i>							
Jan. Feb. and Mar.	17	9		1836, January,	9	8					
Apr. May, and June,	5	9		February,	3	0					
July,	4	6		March,	7	1					
August,	2	8		April,	3	2					
September,	7	8		May,	0	4					
October,	3	6		June,	4	5					
November,	7	2		July,	9	4	At Orr	At Back			
December,	3	2		August,	5	3	Square.	Thornly Muir			
		<hr/>		September,	7	3	<i>Inch. 10ths.</i>	<i>Inch. 10ths</i>			
		53	0	October,	3	2	3	1	8	8	
				November,	7	1	5	4	3	6	
				December,	8	0	6	5	7	4	
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Diseases.—As might be expected, the moist atmosphere occasions rheumatisms, quinsies, pulmonary and other inflammatory disorders. Contagious diseases frequently visit this place. A pestilence vi-

sited it in 1645, as appears from the records of presbytery and town-council. A pleurisy is particularly mentioned as having prevailed to a considerable extent in the year 1771. Influenza raged extensively in the spring of 1803, and in the end of the years 1830 and 1831. At present (January 1837) influenza is raging to a great extent here, as in many other parts of Scotland. Dysentery raged violently in 1765. Since that time, it seems not to have prevailed to any great extent till the year 1828, when it spread to an alarming degree, and carried off many valuable lives. Typhus fever has for some years past greatly prevailed, and in many instances has proved fatal. In spring of 1834, small-pox made its appearance in the town, and continued more or less during that year. Sixty-one deaths are recorded as having taken place in consequence of this disease, forty-three in the town, and eighteen in the Abbey parish. In almost all of these instances, the individuals carried off had not been previously vaccinated; and it is a well established fact, that till that year, since vaccination was practised, few cases of variolous infection had appeared. The confinement, and sedentary life of the operative manufacturer, may perhaps account, in part, for those consumptive ailments, which are of frequent occurrence.

Cholera.—Paisley was visited by cholera asphyxia in 1832. Previous to its arrival, a board of health was formed, and the most prompt measures were used for cleaning the streets and alleys of the town, white-washing and fumigating infected or suspected houses, liberally distributing flannel clothing to the poorer classes, and supplying them with nourishing food. Two places were fitted up as hospitals, and the medical faculty were in constant attendance. The number of cases in all was 769; and of the individuals seized, 446 died. It attacked chiefly the intemperate and dissipated in the humbler ranks, though others of better condition and habits, but of feeble constitution, fell victims to its violence. It appeared first at Paisley, on 13th February 1832, and entirely left it in December following. The greatest number of cases on one day was nine. Cholera again made its appearance in 1834, and carried off 140. But as no cases were reported that year, it is impossible to give any correct account of the number of individuals seized.

Hydrography.—The *White Cart* is the principal river in the parish. It rises in the hilly grounds between Eaglesham and Kilbride, and, after having formed for a few miles the boundary

of this parish, enters it on the eastern side, and flows in a gently winding course to the town of Paisley, whence, after forming a beautiful and picturesque waterfall a little above the Seedhill bridge, and bending round to the northward, it pursues its course towards the Clyde. It is joined at Inchinnan bridge by the Black Cart, which had previously received the waters of the Gryfe, near Barnsford bridge; and their united streams fall into the Clyde, about three miles below the town. In the White Cart, perch, trout, flounders, and braises, or gilt-heads, are found, but not in great quantities, owing, it is thought, to the public works on its banks. We are told, by some old historians, of fine large pearls having been found in this river, but these have long since completely disappeared.* Below the town, this river exhibits little beauty, but above it, much; its banks being frequently elevated, and clothed with a rich drapery of wood.

In consequence of a short canal having been cut to avoid the shallows at Inchinnan bridge, and other improvements on the river, made about fifty years ago, the Cart is navigable up to the town of Paisley, for vessels of from sixty to eighty tons burden. These improvements, which are particularly mentioned in the former Statistical Account, were completed at an expense of L. 4000. In the year after they were finished, the tonnage was let at L. 151. Since that period, the sum for which it has been let has increased. For the five years mentioned below, it has been as follows:— For 1831, L. 222; for 1832, L. 321; for 1833, L. 300; for 1834, L. 291; for 1835, L. 260.

Additional improvements on the river, for which an Act of Parliament has been obtained, are now in progress. These, when finished, will greatly increase the revenue arising from it, as well as improve the commercial interests of the place. For many years, small track-boats have been employed on the river, for the conveyance of passengers to and from the steam-boats on the Clyde;

* In Principal Dunlop's "Description of Renfrewshire," written upwards of 140 years ago, and lately printed by the Maifland Club, we have the following account of these pearls. "The most noted peculiar rarity this shire affords is that of pearls, found in the water of White Cart, about Paisley, and above it for three miles. Though it be not that considerable, that the proprietor of the water and land adjacent claims an interest in them, but every person hath liberty to search for them, yet pearls are not only frequently here found, but of such a fineness and magnitude, as may be compared with any, except what the Indies afford; and they are transported to other countries in good parcels, so that Tavernier, the great French jeweller, in his travels to the East Indies, taketh notice of them. They are found in the bottom of the water, in a fishes shell, larger than that of the muscle. The fishing is most in the summer time." p. 143. These "pearls," says Dr Boog, in the former Statistical Account, "have long disappeared, and the river has become a more certain source of wealth by its utility to an industrious and manufacturing neighbourhood." Stat. Acc. Vol. vii. p. 77.

and for three years previous to the commencement of the improvements, a steam-boat plied regularly between Paisley and Greenock, Gourock, Dunoon, and other watering-places on the western coast.

When the improvements above-mentioned are completed, it is expected, that a plan suggested by Dr Boog in the former Statistical Account, by which the inhabitants of Paisley may reap the full benefit of the completion of the great canal between Forth and Clyde, will also be carried into effect. It is, the formation of a branch from the great canal to the Clyde, to terminate as nearly opposite to the mouth of the Cart as the ground will permit; the advantages of which must be great. * For this an Act of Parliament has been lately obtained. The proposed branch will be about three-fourths of a mile, and it will save the distance of seven or eight miles to vessels trading between Paisley and the great canal.

The *Levern* is a rivulet of considerable breadth and flow, and is noted for the many cotton-mills, bleaching-works, and print-fields, &c. on its banks. In many parts of its course from the southward, it exhibits scenes of sequestered and even romantic beauty. This river is famed, as having given a name to the inhabitants of this district of country; for the *Levernani*, mentioned in history, seem to have been no other than the men of *Levern*-side. It forms part of the eastern parochial boundary, and falls into the Cart, at the point of its entrance into this parish.

The *Black Cart*, which rises in Castle Semple loch, may be noticed as forming the north-western boundary of this parish, and separating it from the neighbouring parish of Kilbarchan.

Various streamlets proceed from the braes on the south, and lose themselves in the larger currents. Such are the *Espedair* and the *Alt-Patrick* burns.

Between two and three miles to the eastward of the town of Paisley, a saline spring rises, called *Candren Well*; on the properties and virtues of which, the late Dr Lyall, a native of Paisley, but long settled in Russia, wrote a pamphlet, strongly recommending the water as an aperient and corrective. Many of the springs that rise within the precincts of the town are slightly mineralized, especially the *Seedhill Well*, which, in former times, was occasionally used as a tonic.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The geology of this parish is very simple in its general outline, but very interesting in many of its de-

* See former Stat. Acc. Vol. vii. p. 78.

tails. The high land of the parish is composed of secondary trap rock, while the low land of the parish is uniformly composed of rocks belonging to the coal formation, and these are in general deeply covered with diluvium, containing many bouldered pieces of primitive and transition rocks. But secondary trap is the lowest rock seen *in situ* within the parish. This trap is composed of unstratified masses of porphyry, amygdaloid, hornblende rock, greenstone, and basalt; but the junction of these rocks with each other is for the most part hidden from observation.

Porphyry of a grey or greyish blue colour constitutes the great mass of which the hilly division is composed. It varies in hardness in different places, but is for the most part compact, and abounds with crystals of quartz, and pretty large rhomboidal plates of felspar. In many situations this rock assumes an amygdaloid structure, enclosing calcareous spar, arragonite, zeolite, stilbite, chabasite, &c. and occasionally large druses occur lined with prehnite in mammaloid masses of a green or straw-colour, sometimes smooth, and in other instances crystallized on the surface. Prehnite too is frequently found imbedded in, or constituting an integral part of the rock.

Hornblende rock, with quartz and felspar, frequently occurs in detached masses both on the high and low grounds, and on the road to the farm of Braehead, about 400 feet above the level of the sea. Hornblende occurs almost without admixture with any other mineral. Its colour is dark green approaching to black, and it is so friable as to be easily reduced to its crystalline form by the slightest stroke of the hammer. In this locality, it seems to separate a mass of porphyry from a more amygdaloid rock, having a base similar to clinkstone.

Greenstone is quarried in several places on the table-land. It is traversed by numerous veins of jasper and chalcedony, and contains several varieties of the zeolite family. *Basalt* is found massive towards the western extremity of the range, nearly of a black colour, and replete with crystals of augite and olivine.

The second or lower division is highly interesting on account of the value of the minerals to the manufactures of the district. These consist of sandstone, limestone, coal, aluminous shale, ironstone, fire-clay, bituminous shale, and trap rock. The *sandstone* which abounds in the parish is that belonging to the coal measures. It is uniformly stratified. In some places, the rock is exposed on the surface, but more frequently is covered by a few

feet of diluvium, containing numerous rounded water-worn pebbles, and occasionally also by extensive beds of sand, exhibiting the appearance of a sea beach, and containing shells the same in species as those at present existing in the adjacent Frith of Clyde. Immense numbers of these shells were found in digging the canal from Glasgow to Johnston. They were little altered in appearance; and the impression left by a careful examination of the stratified sand in which they were found was, that they had been deposited at the bottom of the sea, and that the lower part of the parish must consequently be of submarine formation.*

For the most part, the colour of the sandstone is yellowish white, more or less tinged with iron. In texture it is commonly compact and small-grained, but this varies in different parts of the same quarry. In some localities, it is traversed by innumerable minute veins of carbonaceous matter. In other places, it abounds in nodules of the common radiated iron pyrites. In most of the sandstone quarries, vegetable remains have been found from time to time, consisting of reeds, arborescent plants, and ferns. The former are often circular, but more generally flattened; some of them are smooth on the surface, others are sulcated longitudinally, and many are jointed. They are met with from half an inch to six or eight inches in circumference. The remains of the arborescent ferns are for the most part marked externally with rhomboidal impressions raised above the surface, and arranged around the specimen in a spiral order. All these remains are coated with charcoal, and their interior filled with siliceous or calcareous matter, often also with a considerable quantity of the proto-sulphuret of iron. The sandstone quarry in most repute is that of Nitshill, and is of such extent as to give employment to nearly one hundred men all the year round. The following description is from the pen of Mr Oatts, manager of the Hurlet Alum Works:

“ This rock has a gentle declivity from south to north, with a dip eastward. It lies over a stratum of coal 2 feet 6 inches thick. The rock is 60 feet in thickness from the coal upwards. In some parts it rises to the surface; in others, it is covered by 3 feet of earth. It contains three distinct strata of coal, besides the stratum underneath it. This coal is quite different in its nature, quality, and value, from the neighbouring Hurlet coal. In the sandstone rock some remarkable specimens of fossil vegetable remains have

* See Capt. Laskey's Account of these shells in Vol. iv. of the Transactions of the Wernerian Society.

been found. Two petrified trees found here are placed as curiosities near the mansion of the proprietor at Househill, the one, 10 feet high, and 5 feet round at the bottom; the other, 5 feet high, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet round at the bottom, both having the large root fissures, and protuberances equally decided and discernible with any other of the full-grown timber that now adorns the surrounding lawn. A fossil fern procured at Levernshields is 3 feet in circumference at bottom, 11 feet 4 inches high,—3 feet more in length having been left behind when removing the petrification from the quarry. This specimen was found in the lower or bottom seam of the rock, with several others which were destroyed by the quarriers. All were found lying on a gentle declivity with their tops westwards. The natural pile and porous quality of the rock varies considerably on the different sides of each of these seams of coal, that next the bottom being the finest, that at the surface of the ground much coarser."

In some parts of the above-mentioned quarry, a considerable quantity of iron pyrites occurs, which, upon exposure to the air, becomes gradually decomposed, and greatly disfigures and destroys the stone. When sandstone is met with in the immediate vicinity of trap rocks, it becomes so much hardened in texture as to be able to withstand the effects of weather and flood for an indefinite length of time; as is well exemplified in the ridge of rock which stretches across the White Cart at Seedhill, immediately above the town of Paisley.

Limestone belonging to the coal formation is very generally diffused throughout the lower division of the parish. It occurs in layers or beds, generally lying under the sandstone, or alternating with coal, ironstone, fire-clay, aluminous and bituminous shale, &c. In some localities it is found near the surface, and is then quarried. In other places, it is wrought by mining, especially where it occurs in the vicinity of coal. The principal quarries of this valuable rock are at Hurlet and Blackhall. This limestone has generally a grey colour; is translucent on the edges; breaks with a flat conchoidal fracture; and contains innumerable remains of different species of shells, entrochi, encrini, &c. besides numerous crystals of calcareous spar, and small masses of slaggy mineral pitch.

Coal occurs abundantly in the lower division of the parish, which, as formerly stated, is entirely composed of rocks belonging to the coal formation. This valuable mineral may exist in the pa-

rich in very great quantities, as few trials comparatively have been made for it, in many places where there is at least a strong probability that it might be found. It has been found within the town of Paisley, as at Gallowgreen; also near Meikleriggs; but by far the most profitable pits have been at Quarrelton and Hurlet.

The coal of *Quarrelton* consists of five continuous strata, which, in a field of about fifteen acres, is found to dip in several different directions, as towards a centre, thus forming a basin, but having its strata somewhat interrupted by hitches, at one of which the mass of coal is thrown up about 50 feet, and at another about 30 feet. These hitches interrupt not only the direction, but also the degree of dip.

The following section of the coal strata at *Quarrelton* we extract from the article "Mine," in the *Edinburgh Encyclopædia*. It was drawn up by the ingenious Robert Bald, Esq. civil-engineer; and we have tested its accuracy.

No.	Names of the Strata.	Yds.	Ft.	In.	No.	Names of the Strata.	Yds.	Ft.	In.
1.	Greenstone,	36	0	0	8.	Coal,	3	0	0
2.	Sandstone, and common indurated clay, alternating in thin bands,	8	0	0	9.	Indurated clay,	0	1	0
3.	Fire-clay, with coarse ironstone,	4	0	0	10.	Coal,	9	0	0
4.	Coal,	3	1	0	11.	Indurated clay,	0	1	0
5.	Indurated clay,	0	1	0	12.	Coal,	3	1	0
6.	Coal,	3	1	0	13.	Indurated clay,	0	2	3
7.	Indurated clay,	0	2	3	14.	Coal,	3	0	0
					15.	Indurated clay,	0	1	0
					16.	Coal,	5	2	0
							31	1	3

The above is a very interesting section of a coal field, which, according to Werner, belongs to the *newest flætz trap formation*. The striking peculiarities are:—1. The great body of greenstone of the common crystallized texture, known in Scotland by the name of blue whinstone, found at the surface, and lying above the common coal strata, which are comparatively soft, and have little coherence.

2. The vast body of coal lying together, consisting of *ten* beds. There are only *seven* beds in the section, but the fourth coal is commonly reckoned *three* beds, and the lower coal *two* beds, there being a difference in the quality, with thin divisions in some places betwixt them. The whole thickness is 90 feet 2 inches. Some of the coal is of the open burning kind, but the great part is of the close burning quality, similar to Newcastle coal, and breaks into small pieces. The coal abounds with inflammable air, and is liable to spontaneous ignition. In a great part of this coal-field, the coals amount to only one-half of the thickness represented in the

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section ; but in the place where the section is taken, the coals lie as if they had been cut through, and one-half slid over the top of the other. This singular coal field is very limited in point of extent.*

Hawkhead or Hurlet coal is a stratum or seam 5 feet 3 inches thick, declining eastward with a dip which is variable, but may on an average be accounted one in seven. It extends over several hundred acres of land, principally in the Hawkhead estate, but also in the adjoining estates of Nether Polloc and Househill. By careful and accurate measurements it has been ascertained that this same bed of coal extends over 340 acres of Hawkhead estate, 85 acres of Nether Polloc, and 50 acres of Househill; making in all an area of 475 acres imperial measure.

The strata intersected in a pit near Hurlet, on the west side of Levern water, were as follows :—

	Feet.	Inches
1. Earth and clay,	42	0
2. Sand and gravel,	8	0
3. Schistus with some thin strata of limestone and many beds of ironstone and balls of ironstone,	105	0
4. Limestone,	3	0
5. Aluminous schistus,	3	1
6. Coal, containing balls of pyrites or copperas stones,	5	3
	166	4

This coal contains sulphur, and thereby possesses the property of caking when exposed to heat. The miners remark, that sulphur always exists in coal, lying immediately beneath limestone. The Hurlet mines at one time contained inflammable air, and through the negligence of some workmen in not using the necessary precautions, several valuable lives have been lost. Such accidents, however, are now in a great measure dissipated by the free circulation of atmospheric air throughout the waste, and the numerous pits or shafts communicating with each other. †

* In May 1818 one of these mines at Quarrelton was overflowed with water, and five of the miners perished. Two of the others were rescued alive, after having been immured in the gloomy dungeon for ten days. A very interesting account of all the circumstances of this event is given in the Scots Magazine for 1819, p. 33. The statement was drawn up from the accounts of the men who escaped, both of whom, two brothers of the name of Hodgert, are still living. Appearances on the west side of Quarrelton, and on the north side of the Beith road, indicate the fact of the ground having sunk to a considerable extent. In the old Statistical Account (Vol. vii. p. 81,) this is noticed as follows:—"Some years ago this coal took fire, and the pillars giving way, the ground sunk and left the surface in a very rugged state." Similar appearances on the surface, indicative probably of similar causes, are to be noticed in others of the coal districts.

† See for further information on this and analogous subjects, Mr Wilson's Agricultural Survey, pp. 14-28, and 276-281.

The thickness of the *Nitshill* rock, measured downwards from the surface, is as follows :

	Ft.	In.		Ft.	In.
1. Coarse sandstone,	26	0	7. Lower seam of rock (best kind)	17	0
2. Upper stratum of coal,	1	0	8. Schistus or blaize, like that of		
3. Rock of thin layers with black			No. 3,	1	0
blaize mixed,	7	6	9. Coal, with thin irregular strata		
4. Second stratum of coal,	9	6	of blaize	2	6
5. Fire clay containing iron balls,	3	0			
6. Third stratum of coal,	1	8		60	2

The lower stratum of coal only can be wrought by mining. The other seams, Nos. 2, 4, and 6, are taken in the course of working the rock, for which there is a brisk demand.

In addition to the above, there are fields of coal on the south side of the turnpike road leading from Paisley to Beith, on the grounds of High Auchenlodmont, Elderslie, and Craigenfeoch. In this last field, 4 under seams of coal have lately been discovered; the seam above these having been wrought above thirty years ago. In all, there are five distinct strata of coal, varying from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 feet in thickness; one of them having a stratum of gas coal of 9 inches in thickness. These five seams of coal are at present wrought in separate lofts or storeys. The three under strata have, however, been frequently joined in one mass, forming a bed of coal upwards of 12 feet in thickness. In working, a considerable number of men are constantly employed. The superincumbent minerals at this place are whinstone, sandstone and blaize, or till.

Ironstone has been extensively found in different parts of the lower division of the parish. It occurs in greatest abundance in the form of clay-ironstone, lenticular iron ore, and proto and per-sulphuret. The first two of these ores occur, for the most part, in beds of various thickness, alternating with limestone, fire-clay, aluminous schistus, &c. and are often very rich in metal. About thirty years ago, many hundred tons were annually sent from the parish to the smelting furnaces of Clyde iron-works. Ores of iron are still found in considerable quantities at Hawkhead, Hurlet, Blackhall, Sacel, &c. and at most localities where there are beds of coal or lime. It occurs most frequently in the form of rounded masses of a moderate degree of magnitude, and very frequently of a lenticular form. These contain often beautiful specimens of *Cornu ammonis*, *Anomias*, *Productus*, &c. in a state of very perfect preservation. In other instances, the specimens are divided by septa of calcareous matter, or are filled with beautiful crystallized per-sulphurets of iron. At Hurlet, betwixt the aluminous schistus and main seam of coal, a thin irregular layer of pyrites is sometimes

found, not exceeding 2 inches in thickness. It is also found very generally imbedded in the coals, in round balls. Both the proto and persulphuret of iron are abundant in the sandstone, coal, and aluminous schistus.

Aluminous schist is abundant at Hurlet, and probably also in other localities. At Hurlet, it lies beneath a bed of limestone, and rests on coal. It contains much proto-sulphur of iron, and is employed in the manufacture of the sulphurets of alumina and iron. The stratum of aluminous schist varies in thickness from 6 inches to 3 feet and a-half. When first exposed by the removal of the subjacent coal, it is in the form of a hard compact rock, is quarried with difficulty, and is composed for the most part of proto-sulphuret of iron, alumina, and coaly matter. Soon after the coal is removed from the pit, (especially if there be little circulation of air,) the inferior surface of the schist becomes covered with an efflorescence, which after the lapse of some time is found to penetrate through its whole thickness, splitting the rock into laminae, and thus rendering it easily quarried. After a still longer period of time, it falls to the bottom of the mine by its own gravity, and from its light and spongy texture is termed chaff by the workmen. It then consists of minute whitish or greenish coloured fibres of the sulphurets of alumina and iron. Besides these sulphurets the Hurlet mines occasionally produce specimens of the native sulphates of magnesia and of soda; the former of these in the shape of beautiful crystalline fibres. Its constituent parts in the fully decomposed state have been found as follows:

Water,	-	45 per cent
Sulphur,	-	25
Clay,	-	10
Oxide of iron,	-	20
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Fire-clay occurs abundantly throughout the lower division of the parish. Its colour varies, being sometimes of a lead, at other times of a nut-brown colour. It is generally compact, hard, and capable of resisting a very high temperature. It generally assumes the form of beds or layers above and under coal, lime, &c. and often contains ironstone balls in considerable quantities.

Bituminous shale occurs in great quantities, alternating with sandstone, limestone, coal, and ironstone; its layers varying from one-eighth of an inch to ten inches and upwards in thickness. It contains innumerable impressions of reeds and bivalve shells, par-

ticularly the *Pedunculata mytilloides* and *Nucula attenuata*, as at the mines of Blackhall.

Greenstone, or, as it is provincially called, *whinstone*, occurs in beds forming part of the coal measures at High Craig, Craigenfeoch, Elderslie, and near Seedhill mills, Paisley. This occurrence, by no means common, is also to be found in Kilbarchan and Lochwinnoch. In some instances, as at Hallhill, the greenstone is *conformable* to the stratified rocks of the coal measures, but in other instances it overlies these rocks in an *unconformable* position, as at High Craig and Craigenfeoch. This rock is most frequently of a bluish-grey colour, fine grained, and breaks with a fracture more or less splinty and conchoidal. At Ladykirk, near Seedhills, the rock lies only a few feet below the surface, and has been wrought for many years to the depth of perhaps 30 or 40 feet. In this locality, the rock is traversed by numerous veins of calcareous matter, in which small cavities are frequently found, lined with crystals of silex, carbonate of lime, and mammillary concretions of that mineral. Not unfrequently, there are to be found druses lined with crystals of carbonate of lime, and containing a bituminous substance of a colour and consistency closely resembling that of soft soap. In the recent state it is so transparent as to admit of subjacent objects being distinctly seen through it; but after exposure to the air, it by and bye assumes a firmer and more wax-like consistence, but retains its transparency. Its lustre is resinous; its feel soft and greasy; its smell strongly bituminous, and somewhat resembling oil of amber. Its specific gravity is about 0.910. When heated, it melts, boils, and diffuses a whitish fragrant vapour. It is not remarkably inflammable, but when kindled burns with a light resembling that of a common candle. It readily dissolves in spirit of turpentine. In naphtha from coal tar it becomes fluid, and remains like a drop of olive oil at the bottom of the vessel in which the experiment is made. In sulphuric ether, alcohol, ammonia, caustic potash, the fixed oils, and the sulphuric, nitric, and muriatic acids, it remains unaltered. It differs in colour, consistence, and inflammability, from the mineral oil of Professor Jameson, though it is certainly a variety of that substance. It is held in high estimation by the quarriers, as a healing salve; and when procured is carefully stored up, and applied as a specific for cuts and bruises.

At the farm of Arkleston, a basaltic rock of a rather curious tufaceous character occurs, rising from 20 to 30 feet above the

level of the plain. The rock is rapidly assuming an earthy appearance. It contains considerable masses of a black, friable, and coally looking substance, easily reduced to powder between the fingers, leaving a carbonaceous stain. *

Blue clay abounds almost everywhere in the lower department of the parish. Indeed, the whole plain to the north of the hill called Oakshaw seems to consist of an immense basin of this useful deposit, in many places not less than 18 feet in thickness. It is for the most part soft and unctuous to the touch, and is extensively used in the manufacture of brick and tile. The greater part of this clay is pure, containing very few foreign substances, but near the bottom of the basin it assumes a muddy character, and incloses innumerable marine shells in a state of perfect preservation, and retaining their gelatinous and albuminous parts; as also rounded pieces of quartz, limestone, schist, &c. A mass of shingle or loose water-worn gravel often occurs below this clay, and, for the most part, rests on a bed of fire clay, sandstone, &c.

Potter's clay has been found about a mile to the south-west of Paisley, on the Brediland estate, where a pottery for the manufacture of coarse earthen-ware has been for some time carried on.

Mossy ground is abundant in the lower division of the parish; but the peat moss, which in 1719 covered 300 acres, is now nearly all reclaimed. This moss lies upon a bed of gravel and rounded pebbles, incumbent on an extensive basin of blue clay. In the Paisley moss, the little that remains of the peat is light, and of a spongy texture. The peats are composed of the preserved roots, stems, and branches of *Ericas*, *Sphagnums*, and other heath plants, intermixed with twigs of birch, oak, furze, &c. The roots and tall straight branchless stems of large oak trees are abundant in these mossy districts, all deeply imbedded, but retaining almost their primitive hardness, and coloured to their centre of an inky blackness, from the bog-iron held in solution by the water, and retained by the spongy nature of the soil. These stems are uniformly of a conical form at their base, and almost universally lie in a north-easterly direction. Their tall, tapering, and almost branchless forms, prove that they have formed part of an old and thickly growing wood, which, as various relics prove, has in part

* In the former Statistical Account, notice is taken of a substance somewhat similar being found in other places. "A bituminous substance is found both in the limestone and whinstone quarries. It drops in a fluid state from the limestone at Blackhall; in that at Hurlet it is found solid, sometimes so indurated as to be brittle, sometimes so soft as to be cut with a knife, in both cases highly inflammable."—Vol. vii. p. 83.

been cut down by man, and in part, having attained its natural period, has yielded to the force of the strongest and most prevailing blast. Branches of birch are also very abundant. They retain their natural colour, in general are spongy and flattened, but their cuticle remains fresh, glistening, and apparently unaltered.

To the north-east of Paisley, on the farm of Gallowhill, a quarry has of late been wrought in an extensive bed of schistose rock, lying almost horizontally about 3 feet below the surface. Its colour is dark grey, approaching to black. Its texture is compact and fine-grained, and it readily splits into layers, but is with difficulty broken across. Its fracture is splintery and rather conchoidal. It is composed of about 32 per cent. of carbonate of lime; 47 of sand; 9 of alumina; and about the same proportion of carbonate of lime. This rock abounds in beautiful specimens of many genera and species of ferns, as also of shells, chiefly *Terebratulæ*, *Nuculæ*, and *Orthocerites*.* The layer of till immediately above this rock for several inches closely resembles fuller's earth.

Manufacture of Minerals.—The coal in the estate of Hawkhead has been wrought for upwards of 300 years, and that in Househill estate for 38 years, and is nearly exhausted in both of these properties; but in the estate of Nether Polloc, where the coal has been recently opened up, there is still an extensive field untouched, with the accompanying strata of aluminous schistus and limestone, all of which are extensively wrought by Messrs John Wilson and Sons, who hold them in lease from Sir John Maxwell of Nether Polloc. Ironstone abounds at Hurlet, and the working of it has recently been begun with activity by Messrs Wilsons, who have now upwards of 100 miners and other workmen employed in this branch alone. The manufacture of sulphate of iron or copperas was introduced into Scotland by Messrs Nicolson and Lightbody of Liverpool, who established their works at Hurlet in the year 1753, having previously secured by contract a supply of the pyrites and other material fit for their processes, found in working the coal, at 2½d. per hutch of 200 weight. A similar establishment for manufacturing copperas was begun at Nitshill in 1807, where it is still carried on by Messrs Wilson and Sons, who also in the year 1820, purchased the old copperas works at Hurlet, which were then converted into an extensive manufactory of alum by Mr Wilson Junior, the managing partner of that company.

* Two species found here, belonging to a rare genus, are described by Dr Scouler in Thomson's Records of General Science, Vol. 1.

The manufacture of alum was also first introduced into Scotland by Nicolson and Lightbody, who prepared considerable quantities of that article at their works at Hurlet in the years 1766 and 1767; but their process being defective, the manufacture was abandoned in 1768-9; and it was not till the year 1797, (when works were erected at Hurlet by Mr Mackintosh of Crossbasket, and Mr Wilson of Thornly, and their partners) that the manufacture of alum was successfully established; but since that period the works now mentioned, as well as that established in 1820, under the management of Mr Wilson Junior, have been producing a large and steady annual supply of alum, manufactured on correct chemical principles.

The extent of the various mining and chemical operations of Messrs John Wilson and Sons, all situated in this parish, will be best understood by the following statement, shewing the quantity of minerals turned out, and alum and copperas manufactured by that company for one year, namely, from Whitsunday 1835, till Whitsunday 1836; viz. 1. Minerals turned out during the year mentioned, from the lands of Haugh, on the estate of Nether Polloc,

Coal,	42,554 Tons,
Limestone,	4,931
Aluminous Schistus,	5,701

Turned out in one year, 53,186 Tons.

The whole of this large quantity was turned out from a single shaft or pit at Haugh.

2. The quantity of alum and copperas manufactured by the same company during the year was,

Alum made at the work at Hurlet, formerly belonging to Nicholsons and Lightbody,	1200 Tons,
Copperas made by them at Nitsbill,	300
Manufactured in one year,	1500 Tons.

Large quantities of muriate of potash and sulphate of ammonia are also manufactured by the company, in connection with their alum process. The former article is extracted from kelp, and the latter is prepared from the ammonia liquor produced at the gas-works in Glasgow; from whence it is conveyed to the alum-works by the Paisley and Glasgow Canal, and by the Hurlet Railway; by which modes of conveyance, the greatest portion of Hurlet minerals and alum and copperas are also sent to the markets of Glasgow and Paisley. The number of men employed by Messrs Wilson and Sons in the various operations, at and near Hurlet, is at present 360, and may be divided thus:

Colliers and miners and other workmen employed at Haugh coal-pit,	144
Lime-blowers and other workers of lime there,	29
Miners of aluminous schistus there,	10
Workmen employed manufacturing alum and copperas at Hurlet and Nits-hill,	81
Workmen employed at ironstone pits and mines at Hurlet.	116

Total, 380

The wages of the above workmen are, miners from 3s. 4d. to 4s. per day, with houses, fires, and gardens, free of rent or other charge; labourers and others are paid from 1s. 10d. to 2s. 3d. per day, and are not allowed houses and fires free.

There are in the employment of the company upwards of forty horses engaged at the works, or in conveying the minerals and other produce to Glasgow and Paisley.

The operatives employed at the other works at Hurlet and Nits-hill, conducted by Mr Mackintosh, may amount to about 200 more, and they reside principally in the immediate neighbourhood. From the nature and extent of these works both above and below ground, the men are exposed frequently to fatal accidents. To provide against distress arising from such contingencies, a *friendly society* was established in 1811, which has done and promises to do much good. In a population of nearly 1000 souls within the boundaries of these works, 100 pupils are reported to be attending school, where the elements of reading, writing, and arithmetic are taught and where the teacher, encouraged by the friends of education and of youth, devotes himself on week-days and on Sabbath-days, to the moral and religious training of his charge.

There is still too much ground for the remark of the learned author of Caledonia. "Ironstone seems to be universally found within every division of Renfrewshire: * *But we hear nothing of any iron work.* It is, however, more than probable, that in a shire which abounds with water for driving machinery, and has plenty of coal, iron works of every kind will be established, and will be of importance, in proportion to the capital that may be employed; so as to furnish employment more steadily to an industrious people." * We have much pleasure in closing this account with the following remarks from Mr Wilson's excellent Agricultural Survey of Renfrewshire: "In many places where this division of Renfrewshire is intersected by the rivers White Cart and Gryfe, and the rivulets

* In the lands of Blackhall the property of Sir M. S. Stewart, M. P., valuable beds of iron ore have been within these few weeks discovered; and Sir W. Milliken Napier, Bart. of Milliken (Kilbarchan parish,) has lately made a similar discovery on his estate.

† Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 767.

Levern and Locher, immense quantities of ironstone may be observed *cropping out* on the banks of those streams. The detached ironstone bands and balls, which are to be found as concomitant strata of almost all the coal-works in the county, are also worthy of notice." "It is therefore highly probable that a mineral which the county contains in such profusion, will in some future period be held in higher estimation, prove an addition to the wealth and importance of this county, and give a new spring to the ingenuity and exertion of its inhabitants."*

Botany.†—The surface of the Abbey parish, being considerably diversified with hill and heath, wood and glen, fields of various soils, marshes, and running waters, it necessarily presents many congenial habitats for wild plants. The hills are not, however, sufficiently high to produce any decidedly characteristic effect upon their Flora: nor is the parish so circumstanced as that it can boast of the particular plants to be found near the sea-shore. The number, therefore, of what may be termed rare plants may not be so numerous as in some localities, yet their variety is amply sufficient both to interest and to instruct the student of nature.

The high grounds in the parish, known by the name of Stanley, Gleniffer, and Ferneeze hills, which consist entirely of porphyritic and other trap rocks, whose soil is, for the most part, of a moorish nature, and which slope towards the north, are in many places covered with the *Ulex*, *Cytisus*, and *Pteris aquilina*, but, on certain dry and sheltered localities, the following among many other plants occur, viz. *Epipactis latifolia*, *Listera ovata*, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, *Jasione montana*, *Erythræa Centaurium*, *Gentiana campestris*, *Campanula rotundifolia*, *Vaccinium Myrtillus*, *Gnaphalium dioicum* and *minimum*, *Viola canina*, *lutea*, and *tricolor*, &c. On the more marshy grounds the *Orchis maculata*, *mascula* and *latifolia* are abundant, together with *Parnassia*, *Ajuga*, *Comarum*, *Euphrasia*, *Pedicularis*, *Cardamine*, various species of *Ranunculus*, *Polygala vulgaris* of various colours, and *Prunella vulgaris*, both blue and white.

In the high mossy districts, the *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica tetralix*, *Vaccinium Oxycoccus*, *Narthecium Ossifragum*, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, and in Paisley moss, *D. longifolia*, where

* Wilson's Survey, p. 26.

† The notices respecting the Botany and Zoology of the parish have been furnished by Dr A. R. Young, formerly of this town, but now resident at Dunoon,—an individual distinguished for his knowledge in both of these departments of natural science.

also *Andromeda polyfolia* used to abound, but has of late years been totally eradicated. Two species of *Eriophorum*, and several species of *Carex*, *Schoenus*, *Scirpus*, and *Juncus*; also *Polytrichum*, *Cenomyce*, *Sphagnum*, and other *Cryptogamia*, abound in the mossy districts of the high and low grounds.

In the glens and shady places are to be found the *Lysimachia nemorum*, and *nummularia*; *Chrysplenium alternifolium*, and *oppositifolium*; *Circea Lutetiana*, *Adoxa moschatellina*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Asperula odorata*, *Primula vulgaris* and *veris*. *Lychnis dioica*, occasionally with white odoriferous flowers, *Scolopendrium vulgare*, and several species of *Polypodium*, *Aspidium*, and *Asplenium*. The *Epilobium angustifolium* occurs at Gleniffer Glen, and *Trollius Europæus* at Bundrain, in the west of the parish.

Among the rubbish of several old limestone and other quarries, the following plants are met with, viz. *Reseda luteola*, *Teucrium Scorodonia*, *Pyrethrum parthenium* and *inodorum*, *Artemisia vulgaris*, and *Tanacetum vulgare*. On the walls of Staneley Castle, the *Parietaria officinalis*, *Fumaria capreolata* and *claviculata*, are to be met with; and on the old walls of gardens and fields, the *Arabis Thaliana*, *Draba verna*, *Sedum villosum* and *acre*, are not uncommon. In an old wall near Dundonald, the *Grammitis Ceterach* occurs in considerable abundance, together with many species of native ferns. On way sides, in two or three localities, the *Lamium album* and *purpureum*, *Sherardia arvensis*, *Bartsia Odontites*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *humifusum*, *quadrangulum*, *hirsutum* and *pulchrum*, *Nepeta cataria*, *Antirrhinum linaria*, *Arctium lappa*, both cottony and smooth. In grain fields, the *Anagallis arvensis* and *cerulea*, *Picris hieracioides*, *Chrysanthemum segetum* and *leucanthemum*, and *Agrostemma Githago* are not uncommon, but the *Centaurea cyanus* and *Papaver Rhæas* are but seldom seen in the parish. On pasture grounds in the lower part of the parish the *Apargia hispida* and *autumnalis*, and *Ononis arvensis* occur. In several of the burying grounds the *Conium maculatum* is abundant; and at Meikleriggs farm, the *Myrrhis odorata* has grown vigorously and abundantly for many years.

On the banks of the rivers, ditches, and in marshy ground, the *Sparganium ramosum*, *Typha latifolia*, *Lythrum salicaria*, *Doronicum pardalianches*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Spiræa ulmaria*, *Geranium pratense*, *Scrophularia aquatica* and *nodosa*, *Symphytum tuberosum* and *officinale*, *Myosotis palustris*, *Pheban-*

drium aquaticum, Barbarea vulgaris, Nasturtium officinale, Menyanthes trifoliata, Caltha palustris, and Petasites vulgaris, are all to be found, some of them in great abundance. In Black Cart and some reservoirs of water, the Nymphaea alba may be seen; the Nuphar lutea, Ranunculus lingua, aquatilis, and hederaceus, Alisma plantago and ranunculoides, Polygonum amphibium and Hydropiper, and several species of Potamogeton, are by no means uncommon.

In the shade of woods and coppices, the Anemone nemorosa, Hyacinthus non-scriptus, Sanicula Europæ, Stachys sylvatica, Habenaria viridis, Betonica officinalis, Fragaria vesca, are frequent: while the Solanum dulcamara, Convolvulus sepium, and many other plants, are found taking advantage of the support and shelter of the hedge.

Several extensive woods and plantations occur throughout the parish, besides numerous ornamental clumps and belts for affording shelter. On the high grounds, these clumps and belts consist for the most part of birch, larch, spruce, silver and Scotch firs. On the low grounds, on the contrary, the hard woods are more frequently planted in like situations, such as the oak, elm, plane, horse-chestnut, ash, &c. intermingled with some of the more showy, though less valuable species. These are always nursed for several years with speedy growing deciduous trees, as the various poplars, and also with such evergreens as the spruce and Scotch firs: these are removed from time to time, as the more valuable trees enlarge.

Zoology.—The following mammalia are to be found in the Abbey parish and vicinity:—Vespertilio murinus, and more rarely, as at Crookston Castle, Rhinolophus Hipposideros and Plecotus auritus. The Erinaceus Europæus, Talpa Europæa, sometimes of a white colour, are numerous. The Sorex araneus is common, the fodiens somewhat rare. The Mustela vulgaris, and sometimes M. putorius, are killed. The Meles taxus, Lutra vulgaris, Felis catus, and Martes fagorum, have also been killed within the parish, but must be considered as very uncommon. The Mus musculus, sylvaticus, and decumanus, are very abundant, as is also the Arvicola aquatica. The Delphinus Phocæna and orca are said to have been seen in the White Cart in pursuit of fish.

The indigenous reptiles are not numerous. The most common are Vipera communis, Triton aquaticus and vulgaris, Rana temporaria, and Bufo vulgaris. The Lacerta agilis and Anguis fragilis, have both been taken on the Gleniffer hills, but are very rare.

The following birds have been seen or killed in the parish, or its immediate vicinity, viz. *Perdix cinerea*, *Lagopus Scoticus*, and occasionally on the high grounds, *Tetrao tetrax*, and *Coturnix vulgaris*. The *Columba Palumbus* is abundant. The most common birds of prey are the *Buteo Nisus*, and *Palumbarius*, *Falco Æsalon*, and *Circus cyaneus*, but the *Falco peregrinus* and *Tinnunculus*, and *Buteo vulgaris* and *æruuginosus*, have also been killed. The *Aluco flammeus*, and *Strix stridula*, are not unfrequently seen, but the *Otus vulgaris* and *brachyotus* are to be considered as rare birds in the parish. Between the 8th and 18th of April, the *Hirundo riparia*, *rustica*, and *urbica*, make their appearance; the first, generally by the 9th, while the *Cypselus Apus* seldom arrives till the end of the month. By the beginning of October, they take their departure. The *Turdus viscivorus*, *musicus*, and *Merula*, are common, the *torquatus* is rare, but the *T. pilaris* and *iliacus*, are regular winter visitants. The *Caprimulgus Europæus*, *Muscicapa grisola*, *Sylvia rubicola* and *Phœnicurus* visit the parish in summer; the *S. rubecula* continues throughout the year, our earliest songster in spring, and the last in autumn. The following summer-birds are occasionally seen: *Curruca sylvia*, *sylviella*, *locustella*, *hortensis*, *sibilatrix*, *atricapilla*, and *Regulus trochilus*. The *Accentor modularis*, *Troglodytes vulgaris*, and *Regulus cristatus*, remain in the parish the whole year, as also the *Motacilla alba* and *boarula*; the *M. flava* is to be seen only during the summer months. The *Loxia curvirostra*, *Pyrrhula vulgaris*, *Sturnus vulgaris*, are all regular visitants. The *Alauda arvensis*, *Emberiza citrinella*, *miliaria*, *Schœniculus* are common; the *E. cirrus* and *nivalis*, visit only in the winter months. The *Parus major*, *cæruleus*, *caudatus*, and *palustris*, *Pyrgita domestica*, *Fringilla cœlebs*, *cannabina*, *linaria*, and *carduelis*, are all abundant, except the last species, which is seen only occasionally. On the Argyleshire coast, they are very numerous, coming to the shore in large flocks during frosty weather. The *Alcedo ispida*, *Certhia familiaris*, and *Garrulus glandarius*, are rare birds; the first has frequently been observed on the banks of the rivers, and the two last in the woods of Crookston. The *Pica caudata*, *Corvus frugilegus* and *monedula* are common; the *C. corone* and *cornix* very rare. In April, the *Cuculus canorus* pays his annual visit, and takes his departure in July. On the river banks, the *Ardea cinerea*, *Rallus aquaticus*, *Gallinula chloropus* and *porzana*, *Fulica atra*, *Totanus fuscus*, *macularia*, and *hypoleucos*, are frequently observed. The *T. glareola*, *calidris*, and *glottis*, are comparatively rare. The *Numenius arquata*, *Tringa alpina*, and sometimes

in winter, *T. minuta*, have been killed in the parish. The *Scolopax gallinago* and *gallinula* are sometimes observed, as also *S. rusticola*. The *Vanellus cristatus*, *Squatarola cinerea*, *Charadrius pluvialis* and *morinellus*, are all regular summer visitors. From the proximity of the parish to the Frith of Clyde, several aquatic birds are occasionally seen, especially in stormy weather and during winter; such as *Anas Boschas*, *crecca*, and *penelope*, *Clangula vulgaris*, *Larus canus*, *argentatus*, *fuscus*, *ridibundus*, and *rissa*; *Catactes vulgaris*, *Puffinus Anglorum*, *Sterno hirundo*, *Alca torda*.

The fishes commonly met with in the Black and White Cart consist of the *Petromyzon fluviatilis*, *Salmo salar*, *fario*, and *trutta*; occasionally *Osmerus eperlanus*, *Thymallus vulgaris*, and the small fry of *Clupea harengus*. The *Esox lucius*, *Leuciscus rutilus* and *phoxinus*, *Pagrus vulgaris*, *Perca fluviatilis*, *Platessa Flesus*, *Anguilla vulgaris*, *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, and, not unfrequently, the *Cobitis barbatula*, are all indigenous.

The following land shells are to be found in the parish in winter, under the rubbish of old quarries and turf-capped walls, and in the fir plantations on the Gleniffer hills, viz. *Helix aspersa*, *nemoralis*, *hortensis*, *arbustorum*, *nitida*, and *rufescens*, *Vitruina pelucida*, *Bulimus lumbricus*, *Pupa muscorum* and *bidentata*, *Carychium minimum*, and *Balea perversa*. In White Cart and Paisley canal, the *Anodonta anatina* is very abundant, and of large size, and occasionally contains well-formed pearls. The *Lymnea palustris*, *limosa*, and *fossaria*, and, more rarely, the *Ancylus fluviatilis* and *Planorbis carinatus* are to be found in streams of running water, as the Gleniffer burn: the *Physa fontinalis* is now very rare.

In the lower strata of the blue clay which abounds in the lower part of the parish, the following sea-shells occur, enveloped in a soft muddy clay, viz. univalves, *Turbo littoreus* and *rudis*, *Nerita littoralis* and *glaucina*, *Fusus corneus* and *antiquus*, also two species of *Buccinum*, not now inhabiting the adjoining seas; together with numerous fragments of *Patellæ*, *Balani*, *Corallines*, and *Serpulæ*. The Bivalves consist of *Cyprina Islandica* of all sizes, *Mya arenaria* and *truncata*, *Mactra lutraria*, *Mytilus edulis* and *modiola*, *Nucula minuta*, and numerous remains of *Pectens*, *Tellinæ*, and *Lucinæ*.

In the limestone and shale found in the parish, the following shells and exuvia occur: *Terebratula sacculus*, *ambigua*, and *crumena*, *Productus longispinus* and *Martinii*, *Gryphæa incurva*, *Nucula attenuata*, *Unio Urii*, *Pedunculata mytilloides*, with many *Entrochi*, and, rarely, fragments of *Ammonites* and *Orthocerites*.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Accounts.—We are not aware of any MS. accounts of the town or parishes of Paisley. The principal sources of information regarding the past history and present state of Paisley are the following: Crawford's History of Renfrewshire, first published in 1710; republished with additions by William Semple, a native of Paisley, in 1782; and edited for the third time, with continuation and additions by George Robertson, in 1818;—Description of the Sheriffdom of Renfrew, compiled about 1810 by William Hamilton of Wishaw; and printed with illustrative notes and appendices by the Maitland Club of Glasgow, 1831;—Description of Renfrewshire by Principal Dunlop of Glasgow, published by the Maitland Club, 1831;—Chalmers's Caledonia, Vol. iii.;—Mr Wilson's Agricultural Survey;—Dr Burns on the Poor;—The Paisley Magazine 1818;—Historical and Descriptive Sketch of Paisley prefixed to the Paisley Directory of 1832-3;—and Swan's Description of the Town and Abbey of Paisley, 1835.

Black Book of Paisley.—The celebrated "Black Book of Paisley" has by many been supposed to contain a history of ancient Paisley, or at least of its venerable monastery. It turns out to be nothing more than the famous "Scotichronicon" of John Fordun, who lived about the middle of the fourteenth century, and was a native of the village of Fordoun, in Kincardineshire, from which he seems to have taken his name. He undertook the task of writing the chronicles of Scotland, from a laudable desire to supply the want of those historical monuments which Edward I. carried away to England. The work commences at a period nearly coeval with the beginning of the world, and after two books of what may be considered as fabulous matter, we have a very respectable repository of events in Scotland, from 1056 to 1153. The first seven chapters of the first book contain "a general description of the world and its divisions;" and then begins the history of Scotland. Geythelus, the son of a Grecian King, is said to have been banished by his father into Egypt, where he married SCOTA, the daughter of that very Pharaoh who perished in the Red Sea. As Moses under Divine command led the Israelites eastward, so Geythelus and SCOTA are said to have led their followers westward, where they discovered a "fair island to the north." Geythelus did not live to visit it, but his son *Hyber* (hence *Hibernia*) landed on it, and called it *Scotia* in memory of his mother! Thus the venerable priest claims for his country a sufficiently high antiquity.

The second book is wholly occupied with a description of the island thus discovered; and the third, fourth, and fifth books contain what is properly the "chronicle," and it is a valuable remnant of the olden time. One Walter Bower or Bowmaker, as he is sometimes called, who became Abbot, not of St Columba, as has been supposed, but of Inchcolm, in 1418, continued the work of Fordun to the death of James I., 1436. The work was held in such esteem that various MS. copies of it were made by the inmates of different monasteries in Scotland, and these generally took their names from the places where they were executed. Hence we have "the Black Book of Scone;" a monk of Scone having been, along with Bower, one of the minor continuators of Fordun. Of this MS. Sir James Balfour made an abstract, from which it appears to have been truly a copy of the original Scotichronicon. Then, we have the Black Book of Paisley, *Magnus et niger liber Pasleti*,—an extract or copy made, it is said, first at Holyroodhouse, and afterwards possessed by the monks at Paisley, who held it in great esteem. Then we have the "Liber Carthusiensis" of Perth; and the famous book of the Pluscardine Priory near Elgin. Of MS. copies of the "Scotichronicon," with its continuations, there are extant at least six; a noble one in the College Library of Edinburgh, the gift of Principal Colvil about the middle of the seventeenth century; one in the University Library of St Andrews; one in the possession of the Representatives of Lord Viscount Tarbat; one in the Cotton Library at Oxford, containing only Fordun's portion, however; one in Bennett College, Cambridge; and one in the King's Library, now deposited in the British Museum. This is the genuine "Black Book" of Paisley, of which we have just received the following notice in a letter from Joseph Stevenson, Esq. one of the Librarians of the British Museum. "The volume you mention is amongst the MSS. presented by George II. to the museum at its foundation, and is now marked 13 E. X. It is a fine folio volume upon vellum, written in the fifteenth century, and contains a good copy of Fordun's Scotichronicon. It was carried away from Scotland by General Fairfax, a great collector of MSS., and was afterwards purchased by Charles II. for L. 100, and by him placed in the Library of St James's. Hearne collated it for his edition of Fordun, printed at Oxford in 1722, in the preface to which work you will find a larger account of it." We have examined the editions of the work by Hearne, by Gale, and by Goodall; and, while we could dispense with the fabulous parts of

the work, we are inclined to think that a good English translation of the really historical parts, with the moral and political reflexions interspersed, is a desideratum in literature. It is scarcely necessary to add, that the sombre colour of its covering gave the name to this far-famed MS. At what time it changed its dress we cannot say; but it is upwards of a century since Bishop Nicolson and Sir Robert Sibbald claimed for it the epithet "red" as more strictly appropriate.

The Chartulary of Paisley.—In 1832 the Maitland Club of Glasgow conferred a singular boon on the lovers of antiquarian lore, by the publication of the Register or Chartulary of the monastery of Paisley. The MS., which was presented to the club by the Earl of Glasgow, its noble President, is the same which was long in possession of the Earls of Dundonald; and it has been collated with the copy in possession of the Faculty of Advocates. An admirable prefatory dissertation has been prefixed by Cosmo Innes, Esq. Advocate, who edited this work. In the dissertation, various strange blunders of George Crawford have been pointed out; and a most interesting view given of the genuine uses to which such monuments of other times may be applied, in illustration of the manners of the respective periods; the genealogies of families; and the authentic history of the times.

Maps, Plans, or Surveys of the Parish.—No plans or surveys of this parish distinct from the other parishes of the county have been published, or are known to exist. An excellent map of the town and suburbs, on an extended scale, was drawn up and published about fifteen years ago by Mr Knox, and a new edition of it, with the necessary changes and improvements, is at present in progress (1837.) The engraving of Paisley in 1693, appended to the Paisley Magazine, we have compared with the original in Sletzer's "Theatrum Scotiæ," and found it perfectly accurate.

Historical Notices.—Though of comparatively recent date as a principal seat of British manufactures, Paisley is of venerable antiquity as a place of note. The whole of the county of Renfrew, in which Paisley is now the chief town, lay within the Roman province of Valentia. The general voice of antiquarians assigns Paisley as the place designated by Ptolemy, the celebrated Egyptian geographer, Vanduaris. That the Romans had here a post of importance is unquestionable. Principal Dunlop wrote his description of Renfrewshire about the end of the seventeenth century, and has given the following account: "That the Ro-

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M

mans came this length" (to Renfrewshire) "is more than probable; for as there are in many places, from the one end of Clydesdale to the other, visible, undeniable vestiges, for whole miles of way together, of an old Roman street, from Erickstane, in the head of Eusdale, to Maul's Mire, at this end where it bordereth this shire, (called this day Watline Street,* corruptly for Vitellian or Vitellius' Street,) so there are continued vestiges of their being" (having been) "in this shire; for at Pasley, there is a large Roman camp to be seen. The prætorium or innermost part of the camp is on the west end of a rising ground or little hill called Oakshawhead, on the south-east descent of which standeth the town of Pasley. The prætorium is not very large, but hath been well fortified with three fougées and dikes of earth, which must have been large, when to this day their vestiges are so great that men on horseback will not see over them. The camp itself hath been great and large, it comprehending the whole hill. There are vestiges on the north side of the fougées and dike, whereby it appears that the camp reached to the river of Cart. On the north side, the dike goeth alongst the foot of the hill; and if we allow it to have gone so far, on the other side, it hath enclosed all the space of ground on which the town of Pasley stands, and it may be guessed to be about a mile in compass. Its situation was both strong and pleasant; overlooking the whole country. I have not heard that any have been so curious as to dig the ground into the prætorium: but when they tread upon it, it gives a sound as if it were hollow below, where belike there are some of their vaults. Near to this camp, about a quarter of a mile, stand two other rises or little hills, the one to the west, the other to the south, which, with this, make almost a triangular form, where have been stations for the outer guards. The vestiges of these appear, and make them little larger than the prætorium of the other camp, of the same form, without any other fortification than a fougée and dike."†

* The Roman road here referred to is that from Carlisle to Paisley. *Maulemyre* is on the estate of Castlemilk, and not far from Rutherglen, and there the remains of an ancient causeway are to be traced, although Chalmers is of opinion that antiquarians have not been very successful in connecting it either with the Roman road to Paisley, or with the Roman road through Clydesdale. There seems no reason to doubt, however, that from Glasgow, a branch of the great Carlisle way diverged to the left and went across the country to Vanduaris. (Paisley,) Gordon (*Itin. Sept.*) traced it in 1725; and Horsley soon after. Chalmers, Vol. i. p. 139. There is little doubt that the well known street of Paisley, called *Causewayside Street*, must have taken its name from its following the track of, or running contiguous to the old Roman causeway. In Bleau's map (1654) *Causewaysid* appears as a small clachan at some little distance from the town, and deriving its name from the Roman road near it.

† In Bishop Gibson's additions to Camden's account of the country formerly pos-

When Walter the first Stewart founded a monastery at Paisley, in 1163, there does not appear to have been any village at the place.* The monastery was planted on the eastern bank of the White Cart; and opposite to it, on the western bank of that river, there gradually arose a village, which, as it stood on the lands of the monastery, belonged to the monks. It was inhabited almost entirely by the retainers of the monastery, and, till a comparatively modern period, was limited in extent and population. Hamilton of Wishaw gives the following account of it about the beginning of last century: "The most considerable place in this jurisdiction, and where the Sheriff-Court and court of Regality usually sits, is Pasley, the seat of a very considerable and ancient monasterie, situated upon the water of Kert, some few miles above, where it falls into Clyde, in a pleasant, fertile, and rich soile; to which boats can come from the sea to the bridge of Paisley, where the water of Kert divideth between the Abbacy and the town of Pasley, which is a very pleasant and well built little town, plentifully provided with all sorts of grain, fruitts, coalls, peats, fishes, and what else is proper for the comfortable use of man, or can be expected in any other place of the kingdom." †

In the time of Crawford, Paisley consisted but of one principal street with some divergent lanes, containing in all perhaps 2000 inhabitants.

History and Constitution of the Burgh.—The town of Paisley is in form a burgh of barony. The lands now constituting the burgh were, previous to the erection thereof, held by the Abbot and convent of the monastery of Paisley, of the order of Cluny, *in libera regalitate*.

Four charters, of date 13th January 1451, conferring numerous privileges, granted by James II., "monasterio de Pasleto," are to be found on record.

In the first year of the reign of King James IV., the burgh, formerly a regality, was erected into a free burgh of barony. The privileges contained in the charter were granted to the inhabitants: but the lordship of erection, including the power of appointing a provost, baillies, and other office-bearers, was given to the abbot and his successors.

sensed by the Celtic tribe of the Damnii, we have a description of the Roman camp at Paisley, to the same effect, and nearly in the same words with the above account of the Principal. We think it therefore quite unnecessary to insert it here.

* See Chartulary of Paisley, printed by the Maitland Club, Nos. ii. vii. &c. appendix.

† Volume of Maitland Club for 1831, p. 73.

The narrative of this charter is illustrative of the history of the abbacy of Paisley. It proceeds on "the consideration of the singular devotion which his Majesty had to his glorious confessor, St Mirrinus, and his monastery of Paisley, founded by his Majesty's most noble progenitors, (where most of the bodies of his ancestors are buried and rest,) and on account of the singular favour and love which his Majesty bore to the venerable father in Christ, George Schaw, then abbot of the said monastery, a councillor much beloved for his faithful attachment, repeatedly shown, by the said venerable father, to the King, in times that are past; and chiefly on account of the virtuous education and very dear upbringing of the King's brother, James Duke of Ross, in his tender age." The date of this charter is 29th August 1488.

On the 2d June 1490, a feu charter and confirmation, with an extensive enumeration of privileges, was granted by the abbot and convent in favour of the provost, baillies, burgesses, and community of the burgh.

In the tenth year of his reign, and on the 3d January 1576, King James VI. granted to the burgh a "charter de omnibus altaragiis, capelariis, terris firmis, &c." which appears to be the foundation of the right of patronage in the burgh first exercised by the Abercorn and Dundonald families, and afterwards acquired by the magistrates and council from Lord Dundonald in 1733.

It is well known that at the Reformation, towards the end of the sixteenth century, the monasteries of Scotland were suppressed, and their revenues seized by the crown, which the Government, in most cases, effected, by concluding a bargain with the heads of religious establishments, and prevailing with (or rather compelling,) them to resign the same into the hands of the crown or its donators.

Sir Thomas Hope, who was Advocate to Charles I. and has always been regarded as a writer of most respectable authority, states, "that on the 6th of the ides of December 1553, John Hamilton, natural son of James Earl of Arran, who was then Abbot of Paisley and Bishop of Dunkeld, and afterwards Archbishop of St Andrews, with the Queen's consent, (*reservatis sibi fructibus,*) resigned the abbacy, comprehending the lordship of erection of the burgh, in favour of Lord Claud Hamilton, a child of ten years of age, notwithstanding that it is expressed in the bulls of Pope Julius, that he was fourteen years old. This Lord

Claud was third son of James, Duke of Chatelherault, Governor of Scotland.

“ He adhered to Queen Mary’s interest, and was at the field of Langside, in the year 1568, for which he was forfeited, and Paisley, then in the crown’s hands, was bestowed by the Regent upon Robert, son to William, Lord Sempill, heritable baillie of Paisley, and justiciary of that regality; but Lord Claud being afterwards restored to his fortune, was, in the year 1591, by the favour of King James VI., created Lord Paisley.”

The charter here alluded to, uniting the abbacy and its appendages into a temporal lordship and barony, in the person of Lord Claud Hamilton, with the title of Lord Paisley, is to be found on record, dated 22d March 1591.

In 1653, James, second Earl of Abercorn, who succeeded his father, created first Earl in 1606, disposed the abbacy, and with it the lordship of erection of the burgh of Paisley, in favour, first of the Earl of Angus, and immediately after, in favour of William Lord Cochran, of Paisley and Dundonald, who appears by the records to have obtained a crown charter thereof, on 14th July 1662.*

Previous to obtaining said charter, William, Lord Cochran, and William, Master of Cochran, his eldest son, entered into a contract with the magistrates and council of the burgh 3d May 1658, wherein his Lordship and son profess their desire “ to preserve and keep entire the whole forms, freedoms, privileges, liberties, and immunities of the burgh, and to corroborate, strengthen, and augment the same, for the better thriving and flourishing of the burgh.” Moved by these considerations, “ and for *certain sums of money*, paid and delivered to them,” they sold, renounced, and overgave,

* The first Earl of Abercorn, “ a man of extraordinary accomplishments,” according to Hamilton of Wishaw, died at Moncktown, in Ayrshire, on the 23d of March 1618. The following extract from his last will and testament affords a pleasing instance of faith and pious resignation:—

“ I comitt my saul in ye holie handis of my guid God and merciful Father, fra quhome, throw ye richteous meritis of Christ Jesus, I luke to receive it again: at ye glorious resurrectionne, joynt. wt. yis. same. body,—qlk. heir I leif to sleip and be bureit, gif so it pleis God, in ye sepulcher, qr my brethir, my sisteris, and bairnes lyis, in ye Iyll callit St Mirrinis Iyll, at ye south heid of ye croce churchie of Paislay; trusting assuredly to rys at yt blissit resurrectione to lyf eternell. I desyre that yr be no vaine nor glorioe seremonie valt at my buriell, rayng (crying) honouris, bot yt my corpe be karagit to ye grave, be some of my most honorabill and neriest friendis with my bairnis, &c.” The whole of this testament is recorded in the Commissary Register of Glasgow, and the above is taken from the edition of Hamilton’s work, printed from the original MS. by the Maitland Club, p. 75. “ St Mirrin’s Iyll” is the far-famed sounding aile of Paisley; the burying-place of the Abercorn family; and where several of the royal line of Stewart lie in deep repose.

Holding, Valuation, and Revenues of the Burgh.—Paisley was the seat of the regality court, but had no corporate rights, or separate municipal jurisdiction till 1488, when it was erected into a burgh of barony. The burgh lands hold directly of the crown; and their old valuation is upwards of L. 1000 Scots. The gross revenues of the burgh amounted in 1833 to L. 3843, 12s. 7d., arising from rents of houses and lands, dues of flesh-market and river, casualties of burgage entries, church seats, and other items. The estimated value of the whole of the town's property is about L. 50,000; but after deducting debts and other drawbacks, the real worth of the corporation property will be reduced to about L. 20,000.

Privileges of the Magistracy.—The magistrates are *ex officio* justices of peace for the county; and the provost holds in addition the honourable office of deputy-lieutenant. The number of resident justices of peace in or near the town, is at present 42,—an increase of 40 within the last twenty years.

Representation.—Paisley returns one member to Parliament. The number of qualified voters of L. 10 and upwards is 1510. All of these reside within the town and Abbey parishes; and the Abbey in addition contains about 300 qualified voters for a county member. Since the passing of the Reform Bill in 1830, Paisley has had not fewer than four representatives, including the present member. These are, Sir John Maxwell, Bart. of Pollock; Sir Daniel Sandford, Professor of Greek in the University of Glasgow; Captain A. G. Speirs of Culcreuch; and the present member, Archibald Hastie, Esq. a native of the town, and a highly respectable merchant in London.

Ancient mode of holding property in Burgh.—Lands, &c. within burgh are held in feu of the magistrates, council, and community, and by an ancient and peculiar practice (the validity of which has been sanctioned by the Supreme Court,) investiture was given in burgh lands by a very simple process. The heir or other per-

son assemble and meet upon the thertie day of September instant, and freely by the poll and plurality of votes to nominat and elect persons of credit and integritie, and who by the ancient and laudable acts of the said burgh are capable to be bailies, counsellors and thesaurer thereof, and appoynt Sir John Maxwell of Pollock, William Cunningham of Craigena, William Muir of Glanderston, George Houstone of Johnston, and the Earle of Dundonnald, to be overseers of the said election, and appoints any two of them to be a quorum. Extracted by me (Signed) Gilb. Elliot, Ck.

In pursuance of the above, a meeting was duly held on the 30th September 1689, and a regular poll election of magistrates and councillors was made at the sight of William Cunningham of Craigena and George Houston of Johnston, two of the assessors named by the court. A minute to this effect is preserved in the charter-chest of Paisley, of date October 7, 1689.

son holding a conveyance to lands, and desiring to be entered or invested in place of the ancestor or granter of the conveyance, appeared personally or by attorney, and, in the usual manner, made symbolical resignation of his right in the hands of the magistrates, for the purpose of obtaining what is termed "new and heritable booking." This "booking" consists in the registry of the *res gesta* (including a description of the land, and a statement of the nature of the party's right in connexion with the person last "booked,") in the record or chartulary of the burgh, and an authenticated copy or extract of registry, under the hands of the town-clerk, was held to complete the investiture, without charter, sasine, or any other written instrument. This practice, however, became exposed, in process of time, to great inconveniences, and is now little resorted to, except in the transmission of property in the different churches.

Regality and Sheriff Courts.—The regality of Paisley was an extensive jurisdiction, comprehending the domains of the monastery, not only in this county, but in the counties of Ayr, Dumbarton, and others, and had been erected while the barony of Renfrew was yet a division of the sheriffdom of Lanark or Clydesdale. The office of heritable sheriff was granted by Robert III. to one of the family of Sempil in 1404, (the date at which the barony of Renfrew was erected into a sheriffdom,) and the office of heritable baillie of the regality of Paisley was conferred by the Abbot on another of that family in 1545. Alexander Earl of Eglinton, purchased the offices from Hugh Lord Sempil in 1636, for L. 5000 Sterling. The Earl of Eglinton received a compensation from Government for these offices, at the abolition of heritable jurisdictions in 1749. One sheriff-depute has jurisdiction over the whole of Renfrewshire; but in 1815, a second sheriff-substitute was appointed for the lower ward of the county; and the sheriff-courts for that division are held at Greenock.

Transference of the Sheriff-Courts from Renfrew to Paisley.—This important point, long a matter of uncertainty, has been settled by an index to certain deeds recorded in the Sheriff-court, to which there is this prefix:—"Ane minut book of all bonds, obligations, assignations, translations, tacks, contracts, renunciations, and others, registrat in ye sheriff-court books of Renfrew, and regality books to Paisley, since the 19th August 1685. James M'Alpie, clerk." There is a substitution subscribed at "Rosdow, 13th May 1694," by James Crawford sheriff-depute of Renfrew, to James M'Alpie,

to hold courts, and determine in all matters relating to the excise within the same shire. The growing population of Paisley, however, required a more extensive innovation, which was nothing short of the complete removal of the courts from Renfrew to Paisley; and in the same "minut-book," there is the following entry:—"Paisley, 6th November 1705. The qlk day ane warrand was produced, granted be Alexr. Earl of Eglintone, shreff princill of Renfrew, for transporting the weekly courts from the burgh of Renfrew to the toune of Paisley; and after the same was publickly read and published, was ordered to be recorded. The qlk day, James M'Alpie produced ane commission by John Richardson, sheriff-clerk, in his favirs, for officiating during his pleasur." * Paisley has continued ever since to be the seat of the sheriff-courts. The meetings of Quarter Sessions, Commissioners of Supply and Freeholders, are still held at Renfrew; but most of the adjourned meetings even of these courts are held at Paisley. The records of the Sheriff and Regality courts are extant from the year 1689.

Ancient Charters—Royal School.—Among a great number of charters and other ancient documents in the charter-chest of the burgh the following may be noticed.

"Charter of confirmation," dated at Linlithgow on 5th April 1396, by King Robert III., whereby he, "for the welfare of his own soul, and the souls of his ancestors and successors, Kings and Stewarts of Scotland," gives and confirms "to God and the blessed Virgin Mary, and to the blessed James the Apostle, and St Mirren the Confessor, also to the abbot and monks of Paisley, now and to come, all and whole their lands, rents, and possession in our barony of Renfrew, situated within the county of Lanark. Also all their lands, rents, and possessions in our barony of Kyle Stewart, lying within the shire of Ayr, and their five merk lands of Moll and Huntlaw, and the lands of Hassyden, within the shire of Roxburgh, and their lands of Orde, within the shire of Peebles, into one entire and free barony, and in pure and perpetual regality," to be held, "by the said monks and their successors for ever, of us and our heirs, with power of holding courts, infang theiff and outfang theiff," &c. but "reserving the four pleas of the Crown." All other proprietors of regalities are prohibited from interfering with

* Introduction to "Certain Curious Poems, principally from the pen of James M'Alpie, Paisley, 1828," "as quoted by Mackie in his *Historical Description of the Abbey and Town of Paisley*," p. 153.

the jurisdiction of the grantees. The return required for the grant is the prayers of the monks.

Charter by King James II. dated at Edinburgh, on 13th January 1451, by which he ratifies the charter of King Robert III., and the grant of the lands therein described, and farther confirms certain letters of confirmation "made and granted by the late Malcolm and Malcolm Earls of Lennox, to God, the blessed St Mirren, and the abbot and convent of the monastery of Paisley," of the lands of Kilpatrick, and other lands in the earldom of Lennox, within the county of Dumbarton, and erects the whole into one barony and regality. This grant confers the four pleas of the crown, which King Robert had reserved, but retains the right to the prayers in behalf of the granter and his successors.

Charter dated "at Halierude House," 3d January 1576, by King James VI., with the consent of James Earl of Morton, Lord Dalkeith, Regent, and the Lords of the Privy-Council, whereby he, upon the narrative of the good conduct of his subjects, and particularly of the burgh of Paisley, and because it became him to provide for the erection of a school in the burgh, "for the initiation of youth in learning and good morals, not only that they might be useful in the service of God, but in the service of the burgh," grants and conveys to the bailies and councillors, and community of Paisley and their successors, "all and whole the altarages of the chapels, the lands and manse after-mentioned, farms, annual rents, profits, and duties of the same, pittances, obit silver and common duties under specified, lying in the burgh, parish, and liberty of Paisley, viz. the altarage of St Mirren and Columba, the altarage of St Ninian, the altarage of the Virgin Mary, the altarage of St Nicholas, altarages of St Peter, St Catherine, and St Anne, the chapel of St Rock, and the seven roods of land or thereby of the said chapel belonging to the same, together with the other pittances of obit silver or common, which formerly the monks of Paisley were in use to levy and receive, with power to the baillies, council, and community, and their successors, and their collectors to receive the subjects, conveyed in the same way as any prebendiarys or chaplains could formerly, for the repair and support of a grammar-school, and support of a master or preceptor, for the instruction and erudition of youth of the burgh and neighbourhood." In terms of the grant, forty merks annually are to be paid to four poor boys, natives of the burgh, remaining in the school during the space of five years, and on expiry of that term,

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and removal of these boys, others are to be put in their place, by the baillies and council, and the same payment made. The subjects conveyed and confirmed are erected into one body (corpus,) to be called "the King's Foundation of the Grammar School of Paisley." ("Fundationem nostram scolæ grammaticalis de Paisley nuncupandam.") Among the witnesses to this charter appears "our familiar councillor Mr George Buquhanane, pensioner of Corsraguel, keeper of our privy seal."

Royal visits to Paisley.—"8th July 1597. The quhilk day the said Baillies and Councill understanding perfytlī, that the queene's M. is to be shorthē in the place of Paslay, and in respect thereof, for decorationn of the kirk and portis of the said burgh, in sic sort as may be gudlie done for the present, they haf concluded, that thare be ane pyntour sent for to Glasgow, for drawing of sum draughts in the kirk, as salbe thocht maist necessar for the present: Secundlie, that ane wricht be concludit wt for bigging and mending and repairing of the portis of the said burgh." It is to be supposed that this visit of the Royal consort of James cost the town more money in the way of "pintours" and "wrichts," to say nothing of entertainments, than the funds could well afford, for we find that when, in 1617, the King himself on his return from England to visit his ancient kingdom, came to the same "place of Paslay," no preparations are made by the council for his welcome to the burgh, and there remains no proof that James ever crossed the Cart, or passed through the brig port. Tradition says, that he was petitioned not to come nearer than "the place," inasmuch as the town could not entertain him so sumptuously as might be fitting. He did come to the mansion of the "Noble Abercorn," where, in the great hall, "ane oratioun" was addressed to him in name of the community and inhabitants of Paisley and its neighbourhood, by "a prettie boy of nine years of age, the son of Sir James Semple of Beltrees, at that time sheriff of the county."—The "address" is printed in "the Muse's Welcome;" a well known collection of similar "oratiounes" and poems, commemorative of the King's visit at this time, "digested according to the order of His Majestie's progresse," by J. A. (John Adamson.) The address is also inserted in the Paisley Magazine, p. 577. It is ingenious, but it will scarcely bear to be tried by modern usages.*

* The "little boy" swears by "the Black Book of Paisley" "that his Majesty is most dearly welcomd;" and immediately adds these imitable lines:

"Thus have I said, Sir, and thus have I sworn,
Performance tak from noble Abercorne!"

The "grand schoolmaster" is then compared to "Phæbus," "that eye by which

The author in all probability was Sir James Semple, who belonged to a family long known by a sort of hereditary love of the muses, and who has richly deserved the respect and gratitude of every Scotsman as the friend of Andrew Melville, in obtaining his liberation from the tower, and afterwards in vindicating his memory.* The last representative of this family died about forty years ago, at a very venerable age.†

On November 8, 1665, the council "concludit," that "in respect the Erle of Rothes, His Majesties commissioner, is to be in the Abbey of Pasleye this night, that therefore he shall be invited to have the curtiesie of the town from the baillies and council; and for effectuating yrof they have appointed John Ewing to go to Glasgow and bring four pundis of raisins, ane pund of confected cannell, ane pund of confected almonds, ane of coriander, ane of carvie, ane of aneisse, ane of roughe almondes, and half ane pund of cordesidron, with nine elnes of silver ribbons."

In 1822, when King George IV. visited Scotland, the magistrates of Paisley waited on him at Holyroodhouse with a loyal and dutiful address, in which a kind invitation was given to His Majesty to visit this "the place of his fathers' sepulchres."

Rebellions 1715 and 1745.—On both of these occasions the inhabitants of Paisley were distinguished for their loyalty. On August 5, 1715, the common council of the burgh, "taking into consideration the imminent danger that the country was exposed to by reason of the Pretender's attempting to land in the kingdom of Scotland," appointed a regular nightly guard of twenty men, and "ordained the hail inhabitants to have all their arms in readiness." Two pairs of colours were also ordered to be purchased for the use of the town, "and to have the town's arms put

the world seeth." Clytia and Leucothoe appear in fabulous mythology, as the two wives of Phœbus; and the "prettie boy" asks his Majesty: "Are not wee then, Sir, of Scotland your M. own old kindlie Clytia? Are not you Sir our Phœbus, comming from the east with glorious displayed beams, to embrace us in the mouth of the ocean? and is not this very place now, Sir, yon westermost period? Ergo, Sir, your kindest Clytia?" The little fellow becomes most anatomically eloquent, when he recollects that he is spouting "in the place of Paisley." "Your Clytia, Sir, is of many goodlie members." "You M. hath passed already her head, neck and armes, you greater townes and cities, but till now you never came to her heart! Why? because in this very parish, is that ancient seat of William Wallas, that worthie warrier, to whome (under God) we owe that you ar ours, and Britaine yours!" We need scarcely add, that Leucothoe "that fairest ladye" was "his Most glorious England, most worthye of all love," and that when James "went first," to her "he went lik himselfe, busked with his owne beams, and backed with the best of his Clytia!" We do not read of his Majesty's reply. We suspect that all his "grammarie" and all his "modesty" together were nonplussed by the unexpected eloquent address of the "prettie boy."

* M'Crie's *Life of Melville*, Vol. ii. page 339, 468, &c.

† See *New Statistical Account of Lochwinnoch*, p. 88, &c.

thereon." On September 20th, in consequence of a letter from the Duke of Argyle, the town agreed to send to Stirling "as many armed men as possible," and they ordered twenty guns to be bought at Glasgow." They agreed to support "20 men" at 4s. Sterling weekly, and "a barrel of powder and as many balls as necessary" are sent with the men. Burgesses are found to volunteer on this service.

On December 28, 1745, "the baillies and council being informed, that a great body of armed men under the command of a persone who styles himself Prince Regent of the Kingdome, have come unto the city of Glasgow, and made sundry demands upon the inhabitants of the said city,"—"and being also informed that a party of the said army are intending to come to this place; and being afraid that they may make demands thereon in like manner," they appoint a certain number to "meet and treat with the said partys, and make such agreement with them as they can in the best and easiest manner possible for the safety of the place and inhabitants; and the town's credit is pledged in the meantime, so as to prevent the harm that might happen if the party should levy from the particular inhabitants." Next day the Pretender by his secretary (Murray of Broughton,) sent a summons to the magistrates to repair to the secretary's office. An imposition of L.500 Sterling is laid upon the "hail inhabitants," and on January 3, 1746, a receipt is granted under the hand and seal of Charles for this sum. The sum originally demanded was L.1000, but the magistrates by good management procured its mitigation to L.500. The sum was borrowed in name of the town from different persons in the place as they could furnish it, and the council agree to "relieve the thesaurer so soon as a proper hand can be found to advance the whole sum" upon the town's security. This "proper hand" was soon found in the person of "Colonel William Macdowall of Castlesemple," to whom in return a bond for L.500 was granted.*

The colours used by the "volunteers" in 1715 and 1745, are still preserved among the town's archives, and have been occasionally displayed on the battlements of "the castle," on days of public rejoicing.

In 1753, an action was raised by the town of Paisley against John Murray of Broughton, for repetition of the L.500 levied in 1745,

* Copies of the "summonses" by the Pretender, and other documents of the time, are to be seen in the charter-chest of the town of Paisley of date 8th, and 20th, December 1745, 2d, 3d, and 10th January 1746.

on the ground that the defender was a principal actor in the extortion of the money. The defender was assoilzied from this claim, 28th July 1759, and the pursuers were also unsuccessful in an appeal to the House of Lords in 1760. A memorial was afterwards presented to the Lords of the Treasury for relief, on the ground that the town had been subjected to the exaction, on account of their loyalty; but this application was not successful.

Illustrations of Ancient Manners.—The records or minute books of the Town Council, which are, with few exceptions, entire from the year 1594, bear distinct references to others of more ancient date now lost, * and afford many curious and minute illustrations of the usages of other times, and of the powers exercised by the council of passing acts for the government of the inhabitants, and the general police of the community.

1580, July 11.—A person of the name of Wilson is tried for stealing a pair of breeches. The council banish him from the county, with certification that, if he shall return, and “be guilty of the like again, he shall be content to be *punished to the dead, and without ane assise.*”

1594, January 21.—An act is passed “anent sic persones that wilfullie remains frae the kirke,” or apprehendit going playing, passing to taverns, or selling meat or drink, or siclike;” and they are to be punished with a fine of L.1, *toties quoties*; or “holden in the stocks twenty-four hours.” A baillie, the town-clerk, an elder, and proper officers are appointed to parade the streets and pick up such offenders. The fines are to be applied “*ad pios usus.*”

1597, July 8.—“All *uncouth* beggars are to be expellit” from the burgh; and two men are appointed to see this done, with L.1, 10s. Scots of weekly payment, if they show diligence.”

1602, January.—More regular attendance on church on Sabbath enforced; as also “attendance on morning and evening prayers on week days.”

16.—“The east and west ports to be diligently kept by a proper person, having a *sword and a Jedburgh staff.*”

1603, February 10.—Merchants “are ordered” to shut their doors every Tuesday during prayers, and to attend the kirk for hearing the word under the pain of 8s. Scots.†

* It appears by an entry in council minutes of 8th April 1606, that records of a much older date were then extant; a list of not less than six volumes being inserted, from A. D. 1507, 1594.

† The old motto of Paisley is similar to that of Glasgow. “Let Paisley flourish through the preaching of thy word.” This is the inscription on the silver cups used

October 11.—“ Banners and swearers” are to be fined twelve pennies for each offence.

“ Scolders and flyters” are to be put in the *jugs*, and fined 20s. “ giving the lye,” is fined 40s. “ *A dry cuff*,” is valued at “ five pounds.” “ *A committer of bluid*,” brings “ 40 pounds.”

1606, May 18.—Three vagabonds are ordered to be “ carted through the street and the cart;” with certification that if they return, they shall be “ *scourged and burnt*,” i. e. we presume, branded on the cheek.

1606, August 1.—Andrew (Knox,) Bishop of the Isles, becomes security for “ the Laird of Coll’s servant,” who not appearing, “ the baillies decern against the bishop with 6s. 8d. expenses.”

September 16.—“ Yard breaking” is thus punished, “ five pounds fine; setting in the stocks from 10 to 12; and thereafter to be scourged by the parents to the *effusion of their blood*.”

1607, January 29.—An act was passed against any person setting a house to a stranger, till they advertise the baillies and council, and have their liberty.

1608, 24 June.—It was statuted and ordained, that the whole burgesses and inhabitants should give “ their musters sufficiently armed with jak, steel bonnet, plet sleeves, speir or halbert; and ilk person to give his oath that the same was their own proper armour, under the pain of ten pounds.”

1622, June 13.—Two women accuse one another of mutual scolding and “ cuffing;” the one is fined 40s. the other is banished the burgh, under certification of “ scourging,” and “ the joggs” if she returned.

In 1623.—The baillies, with three or four of the council, were appointed to ride to Glasgow, and speak to the provost and baillies thereof, “ anent the troubling the merchants of this burgh, in using of their calling, and trade, and merchandize.”

1625, January 25.—“ Janet Cochran, Lady Jameson,” is banished town by the baillies; and any one found giving her “ meat or drink,” is to be fined 40s.

1642, 24 January.—“ No houses to be let to persons excommunicated; and none to entertain them in their houses, under a pain of ten pounds.”

1648.—Sermon appointed on *Friday*, “ being the market-day,”

at communion in St George’s and the High Churches. The date of the one is 1744, and of the other 1758.

all to go "to the kirk," and "no business to be done" during time of sermon.

16 January.—"No women to keep school" in the town; and none of them "to receive *men children*."

1653, March 28.—Isobel Greenlees is appointed to stand two hours in the jugs; and to pay a fine of 40s. for "cursing the baillie."

The following extract will shew that the burgesses at this period were not inattentive to the duty of asserting their rights and privileges:—

1655, March 9.—"John Wilson, weaver, and his wife, having asked and obtained liberty of Lady Cochran, or the Master of Cochran, to bleach cloth on the green, under the chambers," (of the Abbey mansion-house,) he is conveyed before the baillies, and having acknowledged he had liberty to set up a knocking-stane, which the lady or master had driven down, (and thus established the right of the Dundonald family,) he was put in jail till his wife drove down the stane: goe and disclaim the libertie sought; and pay a fine of 5 punds."

April 9.—The whole council go to the "green," and make a "*civil interruption*" of the claims of her ladyship and the master.

18th July 1659.—"The quhilk day the two present baillies, William Greenlees, and John Park, old baillies, are appointed to buy a drum for the use of the town."

April 9, 1660.—"Report John Park, baillie, that as he was appointed, he went to Edinburgh and sought all the booths where there is any velvet, and found nane three piled, and that the two piled was so bad and thin, that he could not buy it for a mort-cloth."

13th September 1660.—"This day John Kelso has produced before the other baillies and counsell, the towns twa pair of colours, that was taken away by these who were called Tories, and were redeemed from some of them by Robert Semple, merchant burgess of Glasgow, and the sum given therefor formerly paid to the said Robert Semple, by the said baillies, by allowance of the council, and is now put in the common chest."

1660, December 22.—"The whilk day the baillies and counsell foresaid, have concluded that there sall be four dozen of trenchours, and ane dozen of new cups sent to Sir John Gilmour, and Sir John Fleahour, the King's Advocate, to move them to continue the town's friends."

1664, August 13th.—“ This day the baillies and counceill having considered, ‘ ane supplicatioune of the two officers and a drummer, for five pundis of fee to ilk ane of them, conform to former use and wont,’ they find that it is but ane late practice, and was only granted to them in the English time, when they had meikie pains and little gains; and, therefore, ordains them to have the same fee this year, but not hereafter.’ ”

October 13.—“ The whilk day it is statute be the baillies, and council, that whatsoever person hereafter, burgess or inhabitant, liable in payment of any of the town’s goods, and shifting and delaying to do the same, shall have the key of the tolbooth sent to them by the treasurer, for entering inward, and remaining therein, ay and while they pay that which they shall be liable unto, and that within the space of twenty-four hours after the sending to them of the said key; that then and in that case, the officers, as they shall answer upon their peril, shall, upon the first sight of them, put that person in ward, therein to remain in close ward ay and until they satisfy the debt.”

1667, October 17.—“ Whilk day the baillies and council having taken to their consideration the incivility and indiscreet carriage of Mr Hugh Montgomerie, Sheriff-depute of Renfrew, in permitting the corpse of ane Janet Finnie, ane suspect witch, imprisoned by him in this jail and deceased therein, to be unburied these fyve days bygone, or thereby, and refusing absolutely to cause bury her, notwithstanding both his duty and their requiring of him, so that they are necessitated to cause bury her, have therefore determined that he shall be deprived of certaine favours he has from them, especially that he and his sons shall have no liberty from henceforth to sit in any of the town’s seats in the church, and for these reasons, have ordained their officers to hold them out of both their seats.”

1680, March 16.—“ The council allows three dozen trenchors to be sent to Mr Rorrie M^cKenzie, in token of his kyndness and pains shewn to this towne, in several business bygone,” and appoints the thesaurer to pay for them.

1. June 1683.—“ Sederunt John Snodgrass, baillie; Robert Forke, &c.

“ Who, after consideration of ane endyctment given to the present baillies and counceill of this burgh, as representing the community and burgh, to compear before the Lords of Justiciary, at Glasgow, the 12th and 13th of June instant, for allet resetting of James

Sproull, Hew Fulton, Christopher Strang, indews (*i. e.* indwellers) in this burgh, efter Bodthil Bridge, and suffering and permitting them to have the liberty and privilege of his Majesty's free lieges sensyne within this burgh, and ellet aiding, abetting them in meate, drink, armour and amonition, in manner at length ext in the said endyctment. And it being asked whether it sould be ane towne's business and towne's purse to bear and sustaine the expenses, they all in one voice have concludit, and ordainit, that whatever expences, imprisonment, or fine, the baillies or any of the counsell sall happen to sustain through the said endyctment, during their abode in Glasgow for the said cause, that the samen shall be paid furth of the towne's readiest rents and duties: And have ordainit the treasurer to advance money to the baillies and counsell for defraying their expences during their abode at Glasgow, and their expences of imprisonment and fying, if any sall happen to be. And the treasurer to give in ane particular account of his disbursement, which shall be answered to him on demand, after their return from Glasgow. And for the effect foresaid, they have appointed William Fyfe, and the clerk, to go to Glasgow, and make moyan with the bishop to be the towne's friend before the day of compearance, and to pay the horse hire and expences they sall happen to deburse and pay in said affair, and their pains therein."

8 June 1683.—“ Sederunt, &c., who have concludit that there be ane precept drawn upon the thesur for advancing to the baillies and counsell of the soum of two hundred pundis Scots money, and have appoint four geanzies of gold to be taken out of the common kist, partly for defraime the expences at Glasgow, employing advocates, and partly for complimenting the clerk of the circuit court, and making of necessarie moyan therewith, in order to bring off and assolyzie the town for the indyctment given them, for the alleged conversing with, aiding, and abaiting the rebels at Bodwel Bridge.”

22 March 1697.—“ The same day the baillies and counsell, taking to their consideration that the commissioners for tryal of the witches, is to sit at Pasley, swa that, for decorament of the town, they think it convenient that the Tolbuith be repaired, and for that effect they appoint the seats within the bar to be repaired, and a heigh table made for the judges, against their coming, and other things as shall be thought convenient. Then they thought it fitt to buy a cloth, with a silk fringe, to be laid on before the baillies ilk Sabath-day in the birk seat.”

7 August 1705.—“ The said day they have by plurality of votes allowed to Mr George Elen, master of the grammar school, and Mr James Alexander, Doctor, twenty pounds Scots, towards the defraying of the expenses of their acting of *Bellum Grammaticale*, and also for their further encouragement, promise to erect ane theatre on yr own expence.”

Police Establishment.—It is not necessary to trace the mode of management adopted by the rulers of this ancient burgh, with regard to police, farther back than 1695. At that period the population of the town and Abbey parish amounted to 4375 persons, of which number there were in the burgh about 2200. In the year 1806, when the police act was obtained, the population was 35,000, and now, in 1837, it appears that there are in the town and parish about 60,000, and within the range of the police, which extends one English mile in every quarter and direction, beyond the marches or boundaries of the burgh or burgh lands, and territories “ so called or known,”—50,000.

Previous to the union of Scotland and England in 1707, it appears from the records of the burgh, and the peculiarity of some of its usages, that the inhabitants were more regulated by the authority of the magistrates and council, and by the pastors of the parish, and their consistory or session, than by the King and Parliament; and that the municipal and moral regulations were varied according to the circumstances in which they were placed. Before this period, many of the great heritors of the county had their winter residences in Paisley. The Abbey with its numerous ecclesiastics, during the continuance of the Popish system, and even after its erection into a temporal lordship, attracted the gentlemen of the county to reside a part of the year in the town or its vicinity. About the beginning of last century, there happened to be a considerable number of weavers in the place, distinguished for ingenuity and skill in their several departments. After the union, a connexion with our southern neighbours, induced some of the inhabitants to commence linen cloth for sale. They soon after employed a number of their females to spin cotton yarn; of which they made Bengals, or imitation of muslins. They likewise commenced a manufacture of handkerchiefs; afterwards of lawns; and at a later period of linen gauzes. The increase of population and of manufactures was accompanied with the increase of crimes and irregularities; and hence the origin of the *town-guard*. This branch of police was at first had recourse to occasionally, when it

was deemed necessary, but afterwards it became permanent. This guard, of which the magistrates had the sole direction, consisted of thirteen householders, warned in rotation, who made choice of their own captain, and attended from ten at night to five or six in the morning. The captain reported to the sitting-magistrate the occurrences of the night, and on public occasions, such, as fairs, and sometimes for a whole year, the number was increased to eighteen. This system of police answered the purpose tolerably well for many years; but as the town increased in population, in wealth, and in vice, it was found at last to be very defective. The wealthy inhabitants, in place of attending personally, paid porters, or menial servants, to act as substitutes. On some occasions, in place of suppressing riotous conduct, it was encouraged, or at least not reported to the magistrates, and they frequently did not perambulate the streets at all. Many of the councillors and magistrates, with other inhabitants, being of opinion that a police bill was necessary for the safety and comfort of the inhabitants, the burgesses were applied to for a meeting to take the proposed measure into consideration. At this period there was no fund for lighting the town, and it was customary for the corporation, to furnish sixty or seventy lamps during a few months in winter. This mode of lighting only tended to make the darkness more visible. Foot-pavements, besides, were become absolutely necessary, and regular police officers were imperiously required for the protection of property. Meetings of magistrates, council, and inhabitants were repeatedly held, and, after much deliberation and discussion, a bill for a police establishment was framed; carried without opposition through both Houses; and received the Royal assent in 1806.

The police establishment, as at first constituted, consists of a master of police, two serjeants, four corporals, and twelve night watchmen; but they may be augmented as the funds may allow. There are at present (Jan. 1837,) five corporals, and fourteen watchmen.

The burgh is divided into nine districts or wards, and two commissioners are chosen for each ward, by such householders as pay L. 5 or upwards of yearly rent. The magistrates are commissioners by office, and have the general superintendence of the establishment. The suburbs are divided into six wards, with one commissioner to each; the sheriff-substitute being always a commissioner *ex officio*. The powers and duties of the commissioners and officers are the same as in other establishments of the kind.

This establishment comprises at present a superintendent, two sergeants, one corporal, and four watchmen.

This system of police has been of high importance to the good government and comfort of the inhabitants. At its commencement, there were many violent struggles between the more irregular part of the community and the police officers; but fines and imprisonments made them more submissive to the laws. When we take into view the small number of police officers hitherto employed, to perform duty both day and night, and the great population, consisting chiefly of mechanics and labourers, we must acknowledge, that the establishment is justly entitled to high approbation.

A good many years previous to the passing of the police bill an establishment of *special constables* was organized in this place, with a view to preserve the peace of the community, and to promote good order, in opposition to the attempts of the disaffected and seditious, who aimed at nothing short of the destruction of all law, government, and religion. The plan was reviewed and approved of by William Macdowall, Esq. of Garthland, the Lord Lieutenant of the county, and by the sheriff and other magistrates; and was adopted to a considerable extent, and with due effect. The establishment was organized in 1794 or 1795, a short period before the volunteering system commenced. After that event, this institution still subsisted; but the parade, the dress, and the music of the military associations threw the peace officers into the back ground. However, after it was found from experience, that the constables were the only efficient body that could effectually command peace without military execution, it was again had recourse to. Regulations were published by the magistrates of the place, and the sheriff-substitute of the county,—accompanied with a statement of the powers vested in constables by the laws of their country.

Since that time the establishment has been kept up at a trifling expense. The furnishing each constable with a baton, as a badge of office, was all the expense incurred. The body consists of respectable citizens, scattered through the whole extent of the place. Of course, they are generally acquainted with their neighbours, and consequently, in case of any seditious movement or public disturbance, the leaders can hardly escape detection. Another favourable circumstance is, that this body of men may be brought to act with the utmost promptitude. The town and suburbs are divided into four wards, according to the number of parishes. Each

ward has a chief constable empowered to command, as if he were a military officer. There is likewise a second in command, to aid the head constable with his advice, and to command in his absence. Each ward is divided into eight or more districts, according to the extent and population. The captain or head of each district keeps a roll of his men, and his duty is to warn them to attend the general rendezvous, when notified to him by his commander. The number enrolled in the four parishes exceeds 500. The whole may be collected in less than one hour, ready to disperse any mob or riot that may take place, on receiving orders from the magistrates in the town, or the Sheriff or Justices in the suburbs; without which they are not empowered to act. This effective and honourable body of men has been employed on various occasions to command and preserve the peace; and always with complete success. What adds to the value of this institution, is, that it is completely constitutional. There are no weapons of war brought into operation. There is no compulsion as to the service, and little or no expense is incurred. The disorderly and evil-intentioned, conscious that they are in danger of being discovered, if any attempt is made to disturb the public peace, are thus kept in check, and regularity and peaceable conduct have thus been preserved in very critical times. The principle of the establishment claims an antiquity as high as the days of Alfred the Great; and the plan itself is certainly deserving of imitation in every populous town and district of the country.

Progress of crime.—In the following table is exhibited a view of the state and progress of crimes, &c. as judged by the magistrates, from the period when the police establishment began down to 1818, and for the last five years. The melancholy progress of crime, particularly of late years, may be judged of from this table; a progress for which the rapid increase of population will not wholly account.

	1807	1808	1809	1810	1811	1812	1813	1814	1815
Persons convicted of breaches of the peace,	218	267	144	169	134	106	94	167	113
Cases of theft,	4	16	16	5	11	11	9	19	25
Persons convicted of swindling,	2	1	2	1	0	2	1	1	0
Do. for profanation of Sabbath,	0	13	7	5	0	0	0	5	8
Do. of vending base money,	0	2	3	2	6	6	4	4	8
Cases of house-breaking,	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3	2
Persons convicted of reset of theft,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

	1816	1817	1818	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835
Case of murder,	0	0	0	0	0	0	1*	0
Robberies on streets or vicinity of town,	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Persons convicted of breaches of the peace,	144	146	202	704	790	607	717	589
Cases of theft,	40	40	68	317	264	275	401	278
Persons convicted of swindling,	2	4	11	41	14	16	45	12
Do. for profanation of Sabbath,	10	21	27	216	192	208	252	172
Do. of vending base money,	7	4	3	5	8	2	5	7
Cases of house-break- ing,	3	8	6	37	37	31	29	40
Persons convicted of reset of theft,	5	2	4	23	7	8	28	17
Robberies on streets or vicinity of town,	3	2	0	48	31	33	40	56

Besides these, there is a class of minor offences, involving a contravention of the police act in some one or other of its clauses, which has not been noticed in the above lists. The amount of these for the last five years has been as follows :

1831	1832	1833	1834	1835
1088	1206	1052	776	593

Public houses.—The following is an authentic list of the number of licenses issued for the town and Abbey parishes of Paisley, during the last eight years. The number has slightly risen during the given period, but when taken in reference to the increasing population is very immaterial.

Number of licences issued for the town, and Abbey parish of Paisley.			
October 1828, Burgh of Paisley,			
			237
Abbey,	{	New town and suburbs,	121
		Johnstone, Quarrelton, Thorn, Elderslie, Dove- cothall, and Nitsill,	57—178
			415
May 1829, Burgh,	-	274	
Abbey,	-	198	
		—472	
1830, Burgh,	-	273	
Abbey,	-	196	
		—469	
1831, Burgh,	-	217	
Abbey,	-	267	
		—484	
1832, Burgh,	-	223	
Abbey,	-	170	
		—393	
			248
1833, Burgh,	-		189
Abbey,	-		—497
1834, Burgh,	-		257
Abbey,	-		186
			—443
1835 Burgh,	-		262
Abbey,	-		188
			—450

In addition to the ordinary causes of intemperance which, alas !

* This was the case of a poor woman found in a close in the night, between a Sunday and Monday, with marks of serious injury on her head, which occasioned her death on the afternoon of the same day. The murderers were never discovered ; and it is possible the wounds may have been occasioned by a fall.

operate here, as in other places, to a melancholy extent, there is one which has not been adverted to so frequently in this connexion as it ought; the system of pawnbroking. About two years ago the attention of an official gentleman in the place was seriously called to this subject in making up some statistical returns; and the result was really heart-rending. He took the three leading establishments in town, and the weekly average showed the following issue of pawn-tickets; in the first of these establishments, 4000; in the second, little short of 3000; and in the third about 2200. Now, appalling as at first sight this arithmetical summation appears, the misery does not rest here. By the pawnbroking act, when a broker advances any sum beyond 10s. he is bound, under a penalty, to enter the transaction in a particular form; and when the article pledged is sold, he is bound, should it realize more than the advance, to count and reckon with his customer, retaining only the original sum advanced, and the profit or ten per centage which the act allows him. So far there is no objection. But the case is widely different when the advance is under 10s. Here there is no obligation on the broker to make any entry at all. He simply retains the article on which he has made the advance, and, should it not be redeemed within the statutory period, he is then entitled, without advertisement or any form of notice, either to sell the article or retain it for his own use; no matter what disproportion may exist betwixt its real value and the sum advanced. This, it is plain, is a positive premium on restricted advances; and an establishment in Paisley did at one time, at least, make a point never to advance beyond the lesser sum; and what with loss of tickets, mistake of dates, &c., their profit, we may presume, would not be thereby diminished. Very many cases have occurred where poor creatures, unable at the time to relieve some piece of furniture, or dress, pawned, it may be, by some foolish husband or wife, have lost all chance of reclaiming their property. A case illustrative of this may be noticed. A poor woman pawned a cloak or mantle; the sum advanced was 6s.; she lost the ticket, which was carried, (it is supposed, by the person who had stolen it,) to the office, and the mantle relieved, and afterwards sold to a clothesman in town for 23s. Now suppose that the woman had kept hold of her ticket, but had not been able to redeem this mantle in time, this deficiency between the 6s. and the 23s., would have found its way into the pocket of the pawnbroker. But there is an evil still more monstrous, and a most fearful encourager of dissipation. Suppose an advance of 6s. has been made,—and it

is noway uncharitable to suppose that some proportion of it at least has been spent in drink—a farther advance is then wanted, it may be for the same wretched purpose, and the following device is resorted to. There are in town a good many clothes people or brokers, as they are called, who traffic in every sort of second-hand article. These persons have now got into the way of purchasing pawn-tickets, and cases have occurred in the Justice Court, where it turned out that tickets on which 6s. or 8s. had been advanced, have been sold to these *middlemen* as low, as 6d. or 1s. Now, keeping in view the original discrepancy between the value and the advance, the sacrifice is beyond calculation when this second transaction is closed. A woman in one of the parishes told the public prosecutors that she had an amazing quantity of such tickets, “half a tea-chest full,” was her expression, and that when her own shop required replenishing, she went to the pawnbroker’s, as to a bonded warehouse, and got herself supplied! Many instances are on record highly creditable to the feelings and honesty of pawnbrokers in the place; but it is the system that is radically and thoroughly bad. Too easy a door is left open for the immediate means of dissipation; and if the system cannot be rooted out altogether, it should at least be so far modified as to debar, and that under any circumstances, the pawning of bed-clothes, wearing apparel, and such like articles. It would be easy to show how ramified the operations of the system are, as affording a facility to a weaver, for instance, to pawn articles committed to his care for manufacturing purposes, and many other such cases. Pawnbroking, public-houses, and intemperance, are subjects which richly demand the zeal and energy of the upright senator, in order to a direct and profitable interference of the Legislature.

Executions in Paisley.—Since the Union, there have been three public executions in Paisley. In 1765, Alexander Provan was hanged at the Gallowgreen for the murder of his wife, his right hand having been cut off prior to execution. In 1797, Thomas Potts was executed for housebreaking; and in October 1829, John Craig and James Brown were executed for housebreaking and robbery.

On a general review of the police establishment, the following things appear to be desiderata in its constitution and plan of procedure:—an effective union between the establishment of the burgh and suburbs,*—a larger number of officers,—and more

* This union has, we are happy to say, been accomplished since the above was written, and we have no doubt that the advantages of it will soon be manifest, (January 1837.)

frequent and hearty co-operation of the inhabitants at large in carrying into effect the great practical design of the institution.

Meetings of Courts.—The Sheriff-court sits every Tuesday during session. The Sheriff Small Debt Court is held once a fortnight, on Thursdays. The Burgh Court is held every Monday and Friday. The Commissary Court sits on Thursdays. The Quarter Sessions are held at Renfrew on the first Tuesday of March, May, and August, and last Tuesday of October. Justice Court for small debts is held at Paisley every Friday. Licensing meetings held at Renfrew, first Tuesday of May and last Tuesday of October. The town-council have three stated meetings, called "Head Courts," annually; they meet for ordinary business generally once a week, and oftener as required. Meetings of Commissioners of Police are held quarterly, and oftener when required.

Antiquities, Ancient Mansions, &c.—Of these, by far the most interesting is the Abbey Church. But as it will be noticed under the head of Ecclesiastical History, we at present simply remark, that, in its immediate neighbourhood, stands the Mansion-House or Place of Paisley, an old building, at one time the residence of the Abercorn family, and at another of the Dundonald; but now let out to various tenants. This tenement is the property of the Marquis of Abercorn. It is no way distinguished for its architecture.

Crockston or Cruickston Castle is a lofty but greatly shattered ruin, finely situated on a wooded slope, about three miles south-east from Paisley. The ancient proprietors of this castle and lordship were a family of Norman origin, surnamed De Croc, one of whom, Robert De Croc, was in the time of King Malcolm IV. a subscribing witness to the foundation charter of Paisley abbey. The castle and adjacent lands are now the property of Sir John Maxwell of Pollock, Bart. Of the noble yew tree, which once grew near the castle, conspicuous for miles around, and noted for having oft afforded shade to Queen Mary and Lord Darnley, ere love grew cold, not a vestige now remains.*

The ancient tower of *Stewarts Raiss* is still to be seen. It stands on the right bank of the Levern, about two miles south of Cruickston, and distant four from Paisley. It was once the property and seat of a family named Halrig, a branch of the noble family of Darnley. "I have seen," says Crawford, in his "History of the Shire of Renfrew," "a charter granted by John, Lord Darnley, and Earl of Lennox, of the lands of Halrig and Raiss, to

* It was removed by the proprietor about eighteen years ago.

Alexander Stewart, *consanguineo suo*, i. e. his kinsman, upon the resignation of Hector Stewart of Raiss, his father, anno 1484.* They now belong to James Sharp, Esq. merchant in Glasgow.

Stanelie Castle, an old tower, still in tolerable preservation, is situated about two miles south-west of Paisley. It stands low, with the braes of Gleniffer rising immediately behind it. The masonry has been strong; and a cornice at top, the corbels of which project considerably, gives an agreeable finish to the pile. Its height is about forty feet; fully ten feet lower than the most elevated part of Cruickston Castle. Stanelie Castle and barony formed an ancient possession of the Danzielstons of that ilk,† “For I have seen,” says Crawford, “in the public rolls of King Robert III. a charter granted to Sir Robert Danzielston, Knight, of these lands, the second year of his reign (1372.)” The property came into the possession of one of the Maxwells of Calderwood, and is now in that of the Right Honourable the Earl of Glasgow.

Besides these ancient castles, there are a few other antique structures in the parish. *Hawkhead house* is the principal of these in point of rank and extent. It is the residence of Lord Viscount Kelburne, and the property of his Lordship's father, the Earl of Glasgow. This house is an irregular pile, of which Crawford thus writes: “South-west from the Castle of Crocston lie the castle and barony of Halkhead, situate upon the river Cart, the principal residence of the Right Honourable William Lord Ross.‡ This fabric is built in the form of a court, and consists of a large old tower, to which there were lower buildings added, in the reign of King Charles I. an. 1634, by James Lord Ross, and Dame Margaret Ross, his lady, and adorned with large orchards, fine gardens, and pretty terraces, with regular and stately avenues, fronting the said castle, and almost surrounded with woods and inclosures.” § Since Crawford's time, the house has undergone considerable alterations.

Blackhall House, lately occupied by a farmer, is now, the roof

* Semple's Crawford, p. 241.

† Robertson's Crawford, p. 89.

‡ Of this family, Hamilton of Wishaw thus speaks: “Robert de Ross is witness to repair a year upon I even in the first year of King Alexander the Third, which is 1248. They are frequently witnesses in the charters of the monasterie of Pasley. Thereafter, they were nobilitat by King James the Fourth, about the year 1492; and have continued in honour and reputation since. Godfridus de Ross, Miles, sone and heir of Sir Godfride de Ross, Knight, confirms the lands in Stewarton which the abbacy of Pasley gott from Sir James Ross. Amongst the witnesses is William de Ross,—1261, reg. Alex. Stii. 2.”

§ Account of the Sberiffdom of Renfrew, p. 77, printed for the Maitland Club in the year 1831.

§ Robertson's Crawford, p. 54.

having by its proprietor been taken off, to be regarded as one of the ruins in the parish. It may be remarked, as affording a specimen of the confined and homely accommodation, as respected the dwellings of families of rank and consequence little more than a century ago. It is on the banks of the Cart, south-east of Paisley, but in its immediate vicinity, and is a strongly built, old pile, still belonging to the Shaw Stewart family. It was to an ancestor of this family, Sir Archibald Stewart, the lands of Blackhall were granted by King Robert III. in 1396.* All the fair plantations and gardens, which, in Crawford's time, grew in its neighbourhood, are gone. A minute description of the house itself is in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1819 or 1820.

Cardonald, an old mansion in the castellated style, large and commodious, is about three miles east of Paisley, on the banks of the White Cart.† This venerable-looking structure, now let to various tenants, is embowered in wood of large growth. It is spoken of by Crawford as one of the seats of the Right Honourable Walter Lord Blantyre, a family to whom the property still belongs. The same author farther says, "an ancient family of the Stewarts did possess the lands of Cardonald," adding, that the first of these proprietors, Al. Stewart "and Marion Semple, his spouse, obtained them in the year 1487."‡ In the reign of King James VI. they passed to Walter Stewart, Prior § of Blantyre.

Of the ancient manor place of the Cochranes, a family of great antiquity in Renfrewshire, and whose house and barony lay on the western side of the parish, no remains are to be seen. This was the principal manor of the Cochranes, whose ancestors had, in Crawford's time, (1710,) possessed the lands "well nigh five hundred years." The greater part of this ancient barony is now the property of Ludovic Houstoun, Esq. of Johnston.

Near the west end of the village of Elderslie, and on the south side of the turnpike road passing through it, a tenement of rather ancient appearance is pointed out as the house in which the renowned hero Sir William Wallace was born. But if this brave defender of his country was born, as is generally allowed, on the spot, it must have been in a habitation of older date. Adjoining

* Robertson's *Crawford*, p. 58.

† This river is called the White Cart, to distinguish it from another river in this county, which, from its appearance, probably occasioned by the mossy ground around its source and along its banks, has received the name of the Black Cart.

‡ Semple's *Crawford*, p. 229.

§ Commendator.

this house is an old garden, from the foundation of whose walls, about thirty years ago, a stone was dug, bearing the following inscription cut in Roman letters, "W. W. W. CHRIST IS ONLY MY REDEEMER." The stone was taken to Elderslie house, the seat of Alexander Speirs, Esq. M. P. where it still remains.

Near "Wallace's House," the name by which the above-mentioned mansion is known, but on the north side of the turnpike road, stands the very celebrated tree called "Wallace's Oak." Many are the years that must have rolled away since this tree sprung from the acorn. About eight or ten years ago, its trunk measured 20 feet in circumference. Now, it measures only 14 feet and 2 inches. It was 60 feet in height, and its branches extended to the east 45 feet, to the west 36, and to the north 25, covering altogether a space of 19 English poles. It derives its name from having, as tradition affirms, afforded shelter to Wallace and a party of his followers, when pursued by their enemies, in the same way as the Boscobel oak afterwards did to Charles II.

It is also worthy of notice, that, in the garden of Wallace's house, there is to be seen a fine specimen of our Scottish yew, said to be coeval with, some say older than, the celebrated oak. But be this as it may, it is certainly of ancient date, and tradition has assigned to it the name of "Wallace's Yew."

The names of several places in the vicinity of Elderslie confirm the opinion of that village having been the birth-place, or at least the dwelling-place, of the Scottish hero.

On the subject of antiquities, we would mention that, at a very little distance to the north-west of Stanelie Castle, there was till lately a small wood, near which was a Danish stone, according to Semple, but more probably a Popish cross, "between 4 and 5 feet high, standing on a pedestal, the cross-piece on the top broken off." It had wreathed work on its edges, and on one side near the base, figures of two lions, with those of two boars above.*

At Auldbar, a mile or so to the southward of Hawkhead, there was another of a similar description called "the Stead stone Cross." "It is now," says "Semple, about 4½ feet long, 16 inches broad, and 8 inches thick, standing upon a pedestal about 1½ foot high, 4½ feet long, and 3 feet broad: which stone with its foundation had been lying in a gravel pit for some years, and was lately erected by Mr Charles Ross of Greenlaw. He remembers, within these

* Semple's Renfrewshire, part 2, p. 264.

forty years past, to have seen the cross-pieces on the top. No figures have been on it, only wreathed work."*

Not a mile to the south of this, at Harelaw Craigs, on a rock, upon the side of a branch road, "are seventy-two small holes of an oval form, an inch deep, and placed at irregular distances. Tradition has handed down, that a battle was fought here, and that these holes were where the feet of tents stood."† Semple, however, thinks the tradition groundless. ‡

There are several estates in this parish, once or still belonging to families of distinction, which, generally speaking, have either no mansions on them, or dwellings of inferior character. We give their names here, because the proprietors or their connexions have figured in the history of their country. *Raiss* or *Logan's Raiss*. John Logan of Raiss is named in the chartulary of Paisley as an arbiter between the Abbot of Paisley and the burgh of Renfrew, in 1488. The lands now belong to the Earl of Glasgow — *Whiteford*. Walter de Whiteford obtained these lands, which he so called, from the Stewart of Scotland, for his good service, at the battle of the Largs against the Norwegians, anno 1263, in the reign of Alexander III. Mr Kibble of Whiteford has long possessed the lands. — *Newton*, formerly belonging to the family of Alexander, is now the property of Alexander Speirs of Elderslie, Esq. in whose possession are also the lands of *Fulbar*, belonging, when Crawford wrote, to a very ancient family of the name of Hall, settled there at least as early as the year 1370. — *Bredieland*, still the property of a family of Maxwells, who have possessed the estate between three and four hundred years. William Maxwell, Esq. the present proprietor, has also the estate of Merksworth, anciently belonging to the Algoes of Walkinshaw. — *Woodside*, belonging, in Crawford's time, to his own family, is now in the possession of the heirs of John Shedden, Esq. — *Ferguslie*, on which is a good family residence, was granted in 1544, by the abbot and convent of Paisley, to John Hamilton of the Orbieston family. It now belongs to John Wilson,

* Semple's Renfrewshire, part 2, p. 238.

† Ibid. p. 239.

‡ The rubbish which had gathered upon and around these holes was lately cleared away, by order of John Wilson of Thornly, Esq., so that the antiquarian has now no difficulty in tracing them.

In a manuscript note by Dr Boog, appended to Semple's History, he says, "in the neighbourhood of the farm of Braehead, some men digging in a hillock found several earthen vases. By their account they must have been urns: and along with them some brass instruments, which they describe as resembling heads of spears, 1770."

Esq. The remains of the old *Castle of Ferguslie* are still to be traced on a property lately purchased, and at present possessed by, William Barr, Esq. of Drums.

Within the burgh of Paisley, while it was yet an inconsiderable place, there stood several mansions, each being the property, and frequently the residence of a noble or distinguished family. Of these we may mention Semple House, inhabited by the Lords Semple, heritable Sheriffs of the regality of Paisley; and Ferguslie House, originally belonging to the family of Ferguslie. Both of these dwellings are situated in the High Street, and are now occupied by a variety of tenants.

Modern Buildings.—The principal modern seats in the parish are, Johnstone Castle, Househill, and Ralston. The first of these stands on an estate originally called Easter Cochrane or Quarrelton, anciently possessed by Cochrane of Craigmuir,* but for ages past by the ancestors of the present proprietor, Ludovic Houston, Esq.,* whose castle is now one of the chief ornaments of the county. The grounds around it are well wooded.—Househill, on the banks of the Levern, near its confluence with the White Cart, is a neat and comfortable mansion, still, with the lands, in the proprietorship of the ancient family of Dunlop of Househill.—Ralston House is comparatively a new and excellent mansion, built by the late William Orr, Esq. of Ralston.† There are also good and commodious houses on the estate of Barshaw, the property of Robert Smith, Esq.—and on the lands of Corseflat and Achentorlie, built by the late proprietor, Matthew Brown, Esq. and now in the possession of his son, Andrew Brown, Esq. To these may be added, Greenlaw House, the property and residence of Mrs Kibble; Brabloch, of Fulton M'Kerrell, Esq.; Maxwellton House, of Colonel Fulton; and Kilside, an elegant mansion lately erected by Joseph Whitehead, Esq.

There are, besides, especially in the neighbourhood of the

* The family of Johnston is a collateral branch of that of "Houston of that ilk," spoken of in Robertson's continuation of Crawford, p. 99, as of great antiquity, and deriving their descent from "Hugo de Padvinañ," who is mentioned as one of the witnesses to "Walter High Stewart of Scotland's foundation charter of the Abbey of Paisly." George Houston, younger of Johnston, Esq. has been recently chosen member of Parliament for this county in room of the late Sir M. S. Stewart of Greenock and Blackhall, Bart.

† The estate of Ralston was long possessed by "the Ralstons of that ilk," said to derive their pedigree from Ralph, younger son of one of the Earls of Fife, who having obtained these lands from the High Steward of Scotland, they were afterwards called Ralphstown, from the proper name of their proprietor."—Robertson's Crawford, p. 57. The estate is now in the possession of the British Linen Banking Company.

town, a number of neat villas, which persons enriched by trade take a delight in building; and in laying out the grounds around these, the proprietors have displayed that taste for which the inhabitants of Paisley are so distinguished.

Public Buildings.—The county buildings were erected in 1818–1820, at an expense of about L. 28,000, raised by assessment on the county. The general form of this pile is quadrangular, and the style of the exterior castellated. The western or front division contains a court-house, county-hall, council-chambers, and a number of offices for different departments of public business connected with the town and county: the eastern range consists of the correction-house and common jail, with a chapel for religious worship. Around these prisons there is a lofty wall, armed, where necessary, with “chevaux de frise.” Between the back and front divisions are two courts for air and exercise. The front one is ornamented with a noble façade, with projecting hexagonal turrets, rising considerably above the prison roof. An exterior balcony has been constructed over the arched gateway. It is supported by corbels, and adorned by a perforated parapet. The buildings are for the use of the county as well as of the burgh.

The steeple of the former prison and court-house still stands, an ornament at the cross. Opposite to it are the Coffee-room buildings, the upper part of which is adorned with Ionic pilasters, and includes in it a large, elegant, and comfortable reading-room, on whose tables are always to be found an abundance of newspapers, reviews, and magazines.

In addition to the parish churches, to be noticed under the head Ecclesiastical History, we may mention the Episcopal Chapel, a handsome building of chaste Gothic; and one of the Secession churches, an elegant Grecian erection, as among the public buildings which ornament the town.

Town and Suburbs of Paisley.—The town of Paisley is at this day the third in Scotland in regard to size and population. Its houses, with those of its suburbs, are spread over a tract of ground, about two miles and a half square. Its main street runs from east to west, for nearly two miles, and forms part of the road from Glasgow to Beith and the Ayrshire coast towns. Another long line of street passes through the town, from north to south, the north part being the continuation of the road from Inchinnan, and the south merging in the road to Neilston. Perhaps the most spacious and

regularly built street in Paisley is George Street; but, in point of elegance of buildings, none can equal Forbes Street, which is lately opened. The new town, which is separated from the old by the river Cart, was planned by James eighth Earl of Abercorn, who named most of the projected streets, in honour of the trade and manufactures of the place. The first houses in this important addition to Paisley were erected in 1779. It now consists of upwards of twenty regularly formed and closely built streets.

The town of Paisley, upon the whole, although well built, cannot cope in elegance with some of the larger towns of Scotland. Of late years, however, its appearance has been greatly improved by several low thatched houses having given way to neat and substantial tenements. Improvements of this description are in rapid progress. Of modern erections, Garthland Place may be pointed out, at the entrance to Paisley from the east, as one of the most elegant rows of which any town in Scotland can boast; and in passing along the streets, may be seen several handsome, if not splendid houses, intermingled with the ordinary dwellings of the inhabitants.

At *Williamsburgh*, a village or suburb, east of the town, were erected, about fifteen years ago, barracks, adequate to the accommodation of half a regiment of foot. These barracks are commodious and pleasantly situated.

Charleston, including Lylesland and Dovesland, is a district, to the south of Paisley, inhabited chiefly by weavers, and containing, although most of it is built within these few years, a population of nearly 4000 inhabitants.

Maxwelton, *Fergustie*, and *Millerston*, form the western suburbs of Paisley, and with the places just mentioned, are comprehended within the Parliamentary burgh. From the great space occupied by the town and suburbs of Paisley; from the sloping character of the ground, on which great part of it is built; and from the houses in general having a considerable portion of unoccupied ground behind them, and some of them tastefully laid out gardens, Paisley may, upon the whole, be considered as a healthy place of residence, notwithstanding the occasional visitations of epidemical disease.

Villages.—In the parish, besides the suburbs of Paisley, we have to mention the following villages, viz. Nitshill, Hurlet, Corsemill, and Dovecothall, in the south-east; and Elderslie, Thorn, Over-

ton, and Quarrelton, with Johnston, which may be considered rather as a thriving town than as a village, in the west. *Nitshill*, distant about four miles from the old parish church, and *Hurlet*, about three, are inhabited chiefly by colliers and other miners employed in the extensive works in their neighbourhood. The inhabitants of *Corsemill* and *Dovecothall* again, also about three or four miles from the Abbey Church, are chiefly employed in the bleachfields and printfields on the banks of the Lovern, although several of the inhabitants of all these four villages find occupation in the extensive cotton-mill at Barrhead, in the neighbouring parish of Neilston.

Elderslie, situated about two and a half or three miles from Paisley, is, exclusive of Johnston, the most populous village in this parish, beyond the bounds of the Parliamentary burgh. Its inhabitants are chiefly weavers, and cotton-spinners, including at the same time several employed at the neighbouring coal-pits and quarries. As the Glasgow, Paisley, and Ardrossan Canal stretches along the north side of this village, it greatly facilitates its commercial intercourse with the neighbouring towns. Its inhabitants are well supplied with excellent water, from springs in the vicinity, especially from the famed *Bore*, a spring, whose water came in contact with a shaft, put down about forty years ago, when searching for coal. After boring forty fathoms deep, the original design was abandoned; but although coal was not obtained, the spring still continues to supply plentifully the inhabitants of this interesting village with excellent water, throughout the whole year, at the rate of five gallons per minute, being six and a half gallons per day to each individual.

Thorn and *Overton* are peopled by colliers, weavers, and a few other handicraftsmen. The population of Quarrelton consists almost entirely of colliers. This village is very pleasantly situated, on the north side of the great road from Glasgow to Beith; and it, as well as *Elderslie*, and the other villages on this line of road, presents from morning to night, a very busy and animated scene, from the great number of travellers daily passing. This village, like *Elderslie*, is well supplied with excellent water.

Johnston, which is still included in the parish, *quoad civilia*, exhibits a most striking illustration of the effect of manufactures, in originating and increasing towns.

About fifty years ago, near that bridge across the Black Cart,

which, till lately, gave to the place the popular name of "Brig o' Johnston," merely a few cottages were to be seen, where now is a town consisting of two large squares, many considerable streets, and numerous public works. This town is about four miles west from Paisley, and about eleven from Glasgow. Its situation is very pleasant, being contiguous to the Black Cart. It is probable that, at this day, it would either not have existed, or if it had, have been confined to the few cottages near the bridge, had not the late public-spirited proprietor, by his influence and example, excited a spirit of industry among its inhabitants, and cherished it by his paternal care. The spirit he infused has continued to manifest itself, in the increasing wealth and prosperity of its enlightened and enterprising merchants and tradesmen.

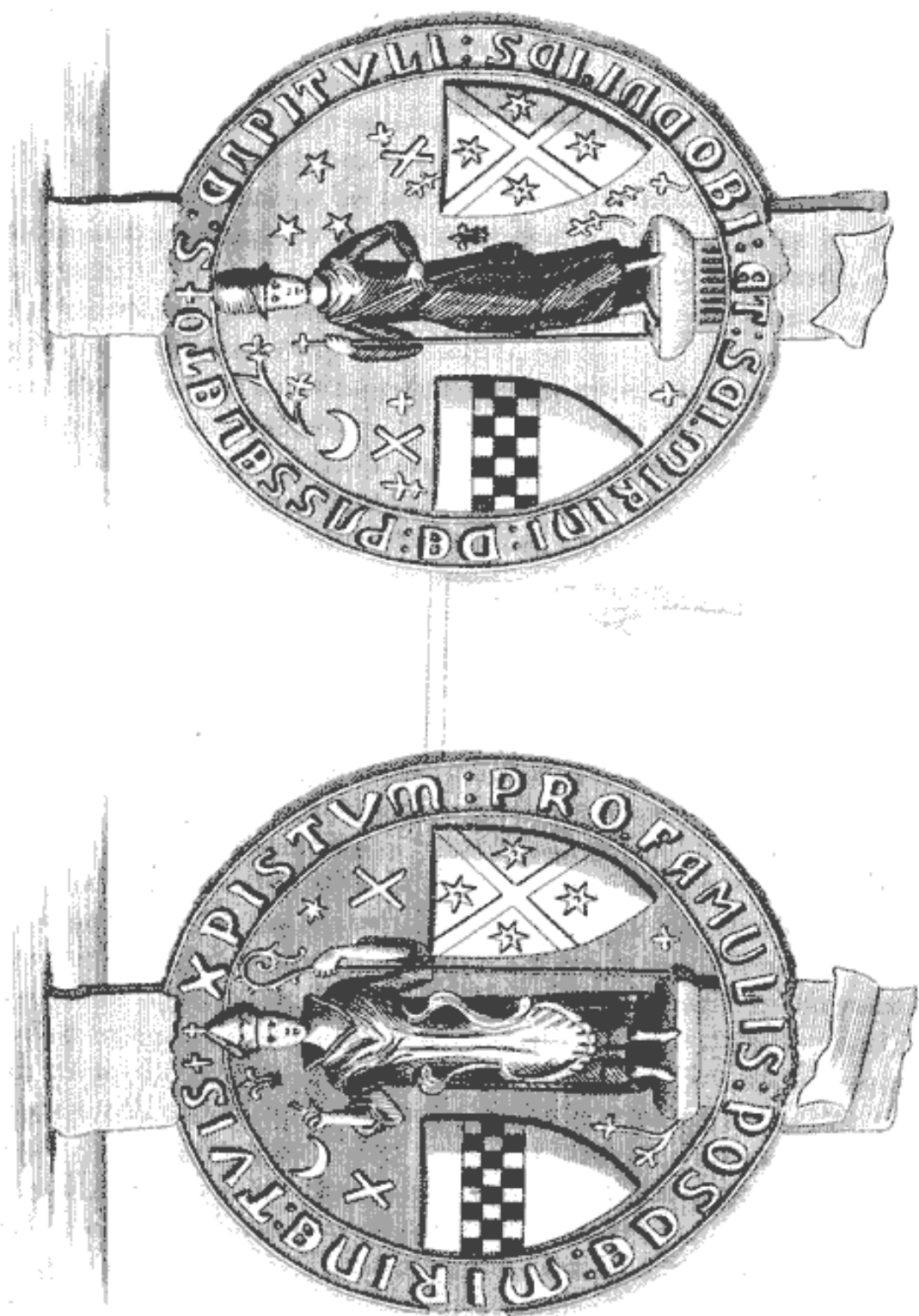
The rapid increase of this place is not exceeded, if equalled, in the annals of Scottish history. It began to be feued in the year 1781, when it contained only ten persons. Towards the end of October 1782, nine houses of the New Town of Johnston were built, two others were being erected, and ground on which forty-two more were to be built was feued. In 1792, the inhabitants amounted to 1434 in number; in 1811, to 3647; in 1818, to about 5000; and in 1831, to 5617.

As the introduction of the manufacture of cotton yarn by mill machinery led to the founding of Johnston, so has the extension of the same manufacture contributed to its rapid increase and present prosperity. Within the boundary of this place are situated not less than eleven cotton mills.

The town of Johnston is built on a very regular plan. Besides Houston Square, in the centre of the town, which is now built up on every side, there is to the southward a large area, intended to be a second square, as well as market place, which is already beginning to be enclosed with neat houses. High Street, which extends from the bridge of Johnston to Dick's Bridge on the east, is closely built, as are several other streets, branching at right angles from both its sides. The houses in Johnston are, for the most part, two and three stories in height, handsomely composed of good mason work. To each house is attached an adequate extent of garden ground. The shops are numerous, some of them elegant, and in general, well stocked with varieties of excellent commodities.

The civil polity of the town is managed by a committee elected

SIGILLUM MONASTERII DE PASLETO



annually by the feuars. A Justice of Peace Court is held in the Assembly Rooms on the first Friday of every month. In Johnston there are a due proportion of highly respectable writers and medical practitioners,—a lodge of free masons,—various booksellers and printers,—fire and life assurance companies, and a branch of the Paisley Union Bank,—carriers to Paisley, Glasgow, Port-Glasgow, and Greenock. The market-place is very spacious, and affords accommodation rarely to be met with. The Glasgow, Paisley and Ardrossan Canal terminates in a basin at the east end of Johnston, to the advantage of which it greatly contributes. Adjoining to the coal quay in this place, the tacksman of the Nitshill stone quarry has a yard for landing his building materials, for the better accommodation of those who prefer using the excellent stones of that quarry, in the construction of their factories and houses.

From an eminence on the Paisley road, distant about a quarter of a mile from Johnston, that village has a picturesque appearance. The light and elegant spire which adorns its octagonal church is an object of general admiration. It was built in 1823, and is an imitation in miniature of the famous spire at Lincoln, built by Sir Christopher Wren. Since the erection of this spire, not less than five different bells have been its inmates, all of which, although of good materials, as well as excellent tone, have been rendered unfit for duty by fracture, occasioned, it has been said, by the confined space in which they were hung. A sixth bell is now ordered, but it is proposed to erect it in a lower part of the spire than that occupied by its predecessors, in the hope, that, in a more roomy space, it will be less liable to the accident which befell the others.

III.—ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

Monastery.—At one period, Renfrewshire was all comprehended in the deanery of Rutherglen, being one of the ten deaneries of the Episcopal see of Glasgow. The only monastic establishment in the county was that of Paisley, founded by Walter, son of Alan, the first of the Stewarts. This monastery appears to have been founded in the year 1163,* for a Prior, and thirteen Cluniac Monks, † whom its founder brought from Wenlock in Shropshire, his native

* Chart. Pais. pref. p. 3.

† “The order derived its name from the Abbey of Cluni in Burgundy, the first and always the chief house of what were termed the reformed Benedictines.”—Pref. to Chart. p. 3.

country.* It has been supposed that Paisley was not the first situation selected as the seat of this monastery. A charter of Malcolm confirms a grant of its founder, to the monks of St Milburga of Wenlock, of the Cluniac order, seated at the church of St Mary and St James, in the Inch beside Renfrew; and a recorded charter of the founder grants to the monks of Paisley "terram quam monachi prius habitaverunt."† These words, however, do not prove that Walter founded his monastery at Renfrew, and afterwards removed it to Paisley, although they are strong evidence, that, previous to the grant referred to, a settlement of monks existed at the former place. But if, by any other evidence, it can be made out that Renfrew was the original site of our monastery, it appears that its founder soon discovered the superiority of Paisley over Renfrew, as its site: for within a very short period, and before the death of King Malcolm, did he remove the new colony to their more permanent abode. ‡

The monastery was dedicated generally to God and the Virgin Mary, and in particular to St James and St Mirin, § the last of whom seems to have been a Scottish Confessor, who passed his days in this vicinity, became afterwards the tutelary saint of the place, and was commemorated on the 15th of September || This monastery, by its original constitution, was ruled by a prior. But about the year 1220, it was, by a bull of Pope Honorius, raised to the rank of an abbacy, and the lands belonging to it were afterwards erected into a regality, under the jurisdiction of an abbot. ¶ Its Abbot was entitled to wear a mitre, a ring, and other pontificals; ** and he and the monks obtained from the popes many bulls, confirming their rights, and conferring on them certain privileges. †† It was liberally endowed by Walter, its founder. "He granted to the monks the Church of Inverwick, and the Mill of Inverwick, in East Lothian; the Church of Legerdeswode, in Berwick-

* Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, has not only illustrated that obscure part of Scottish History, the true origin of the Stewart family, by showing that Walter, the first Stewart of Scotland, who obtained such magnificent possessions from David I. was one of the Fitzalans of Shropshire, afterwards Earls of Arundel, but has explained the nature of the connexion between that family and the Cluniac Monks of Wenlock.—Vol. i. p. 572-6.

† Chart. Pais. pref. p. 5.

‡ Ib.

§ "S. Merinus monachus, S. Regulo Græco per familiaria, qui vel una cum illo in Scotiam appulit, vel cum ille appelleret, strenuam, Deoque acceptam, instruendis Christianis pietate popularibus operam impendebat, Scripsit, "Homilias de Sanctis," Florebat anno cccclxix." Dempsteri, *Historia Ecclesiastica*, p. 481, Tom. ii. printed for the Maitland Club in 1829.

|| Chalm. *Caled.* V. iii. p. 820.

¶ Chart. Pais. p. 8.

** Chart. Paisley, p. 429.

†† Ib. *passim*.

shire; a carucate* of land, at Hastenesdene, in Roxburghshire; the churches of Cathcart, and of Paisley, and all the churches of Strathgryfe, in Renfrewshire, except that of Inchinnan; the church of Prestwick-burgh, and the church of Prestwick, with all the lands of Prestwick, in Ayrshire; a salt-work at Calentir, in Stirlingshire; the lands of Drip and of Paisley and other lands in the barony of Renfrew; a toft in his burgh of Renfrew; † and half a merk of silver, yearly, from his rents in that burgh; the mill of Renfrew; the island in the Clyde near Renfrew; and the fishing between that island and Perthec; one net's fishing for salmon, and six nets fishing for herrings, in the Clyde; 4s. yearly from the mill of Paisley, and the right of grinding their corns at this mill, free of multure: the tenth of the produce of that mill, and of all his other mills; the tithes of all his wastes, and of all the lands, which were settled, or should be settled in his forests: the right of pasturage and all other easements in the forest of Paisley; the tenth of his venison, and the skins of his venison; the tenth penny of the rents of all his lands, except those in Kyle." ‡ Eschina, the wife of the founder, gave to the monks some lands and pasturages, in her territory of Moll in Roxburghshire. § Alan, the son of Walter, besides confirming his father's grants, made considerable additions to them, such as the church of Kingarf, in Bute, with its chapels, —and a large tract of land in that island. Walter, the third Stewart, and grandson of the founder, added still farther to the possessions of the monastery, as did also the vassals of the founder and his successors. Accordingly, we find the monks of Paisley in possession, at one time, of the church of Sanchar, and the church of Dundonald, with its two chapels of Crosby, and Richardtoun, the church of Achinleck and of Craigie in Ayrshire, the churches of Pollock, Mearns, and Neilston in Renfrewshire. || We may mention also, that Walter the Stewart, in 1318, added to the endowments of the first three Stewarts, the church of Largs, in Ayrshire, with its property and pertinents, for the salvation of the soul of his wife, Marjory Bruce, who was buried in the monastery at Paisley. ¶ The monks of Paisley were also gifted with the churches of Ruther-

* A carucate of land, that is, "as much land as a plough could till in one year, computed in England at 100 acres." Skené de Signif. Verb.

† Toft is used to denote "a place of pasture near a village." Jameson's Supplement, verb. Toft. Charter of Alan, the second Steward of Scotland, son of Walter, the founder of the monastery of Paisley, granting a toft in Renfrew, and the right of a salmon-net in the river Clyde, to the monks of Cuper." From the Cottonian Charter, xviii. 24. See Illustrations of Scottish History, printed for the Maitland Club.

‡ Chart. *passim*, Chalmers' Caledon. Vol. iii. p. 820.

§ Chart. p. 74.

|| Chalmers, Vol. iii. p. 821.

¶ *Ib.*

glen and Carmunnock, in Lanarkshire, before 1189, and of Kilfinan, in Cowal, and of Kilcolmanel, in Knapdale, with the chapel of St Columba. By these and other rich donations, as well as smaller acquisitions of lands and tenements in burghs, partly the gifts of pious individuals, and partly by purchase, did Paisley become the most opulent monastery in the south of Scotland, with the exception of Kelso. St Andrews, Dunfermline, and Aberbrothock are mentioned as the only ones north of the Forth, that exceeded it. These, however, were of royal foundation, nor is there any example in all Scotland of any monastic establishment being so liberally endowed by a private family, as that of Paisley was by the first three Stewarts.*

The Abbey of Paisley was the family burying-place of the Stewarts, before their accession to the throne, and even after that period, Eupheme, Queen of Robert II., and Robert III. were buried at Paisley; the first in 1387, and the second in 1406. † The monastery was destroyed by fire by the English in 1307. ‡ It was afterwards rebuilt and greatly enlarged. The magnificent Abbey Church, which existed at the Reformation, seems to have been built in the reigns of James I. and II., and was nearly completed by Abbot Thomas Tarvas, in 1459. § It was after the model of a Cathedral, in the form of a cross, with a very lofty steeple, finished after the abbot's death. ¶ The spacious buildings of this

* Chalmers, Vol. iii. p. 822.

† *Ib.*

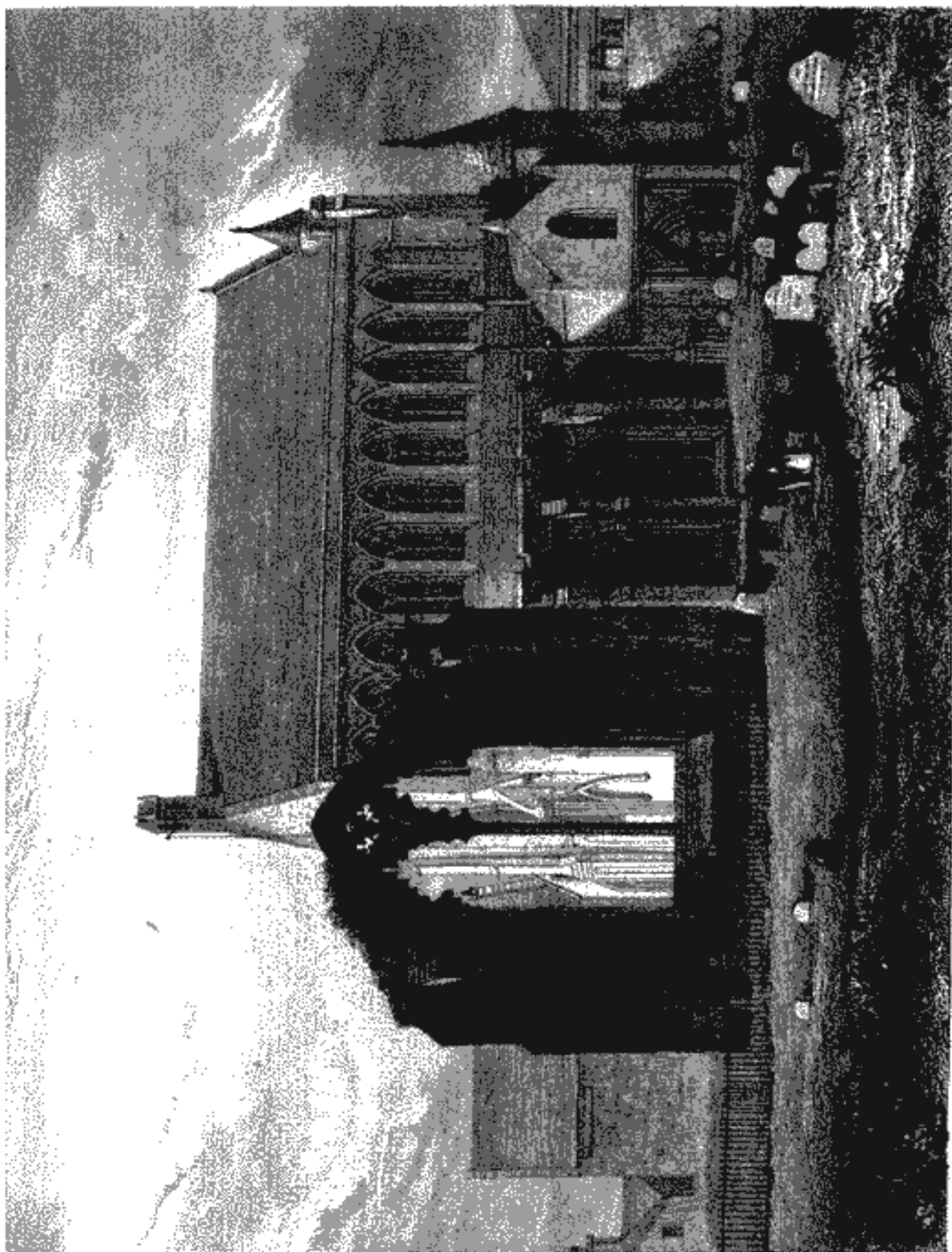
‡ Fordun, as referred to by Chalmers, Vol. iii. p. 824.

§ "The yer of God mccccclix. the penult day of Junii, decessit at Paisley, Thomas Tarvas, Abbot of Paisley, the quhilk was ane richt gude man, and helplyk to the place of our that ever was; for he did mony notable thingis, and held ane noble hous, and was ay wele purvait. He fand the place all out of gud rewle, and destitute of levying, and all the kirkis in lordis handis, and the kirk unbiggit. The body of the kirk fra the bright stair up, he biggit and put on the ruf, and theeket it with colait, and riggit it with stane, and biggit ane great porcioun of the steple, and ane stailis yalious, and brocht hame mony gud jewellis, and alathis of gold, silver, and silk, and mony gud bukis, and made stailis stailis, and glasynit mekle of all the kirk. And brocht hame the stailis tabernacle that was in all Scotland, and the mast costlie. And schortlis he brocht all the place to fredome, and fra nocht till ane mighty place, and left it out of all kynd of det, and at all fredome till dispone as thaim lyk, and left ane of the best myteris that was in Scotland, and ebandillaris of silver, and ane lectren of bras, with mony uther gud jowellis."—*Auchinleck Chronicle.*

¶ One of the architects employed in the erection or repairing of the Abbey, was John Ufford, as appears from the following inscription, on the south side of the transept door of the Abbey of Melrose.

JOHN : MURDO : SUM : YTM : CALLYT
 W. S :D : BORN : IN : PARVSE
 CERTAINLY : AND : HAD : IN : KEPING :
 AL : MASON : WERE : OF : BANTAN
 DRAYS : YE : HYE : KIRK , OF : GLAS :
 GO : MELROS : AND : PASLAY : OF
 NYDDSDALL :D : OF : GALWAY :
 I : PRAY : TO : GOD :D : Y : BATH ,

... ..



DRAWN & ENGRAVED BY

JOSEPH SWAN GLASGOW

ABBAY OF PAISLEY,

LOOKING SOUTH

monastery, with its extensive orchards and gardens, and a small park for fallow-deer, were surrounded by a magnificent wall of cut stone, upwards of a mile in circumference. This wall was built in the reign of James III. in 1485, by George Shaw, Abbot of Paisley, as appears from the following inscription on the west wall of the house, at the angle formed by Lawn Street and Inle Street.

THEI CALLIT YE ABBOT GEORG OF SCHAWK,
 ABOUT YIS ABBAY GART MAK THIS WAW;
 A THOUSANDE FOUR HUNDRETH ZHEVE,
 AUCHTY ANDE FYVE, THE DATE BUT VEIR:
 † * * * * *
 THAT MADE THUS NOBIL FOUNDACIOUN.

Spottiswood takes notice of another inscription. "In one of the corners of this curious wall, towards the outer side, there was a niche, with a statue of the Virgin Mary, with this distich engraven under her feet.

*Hæc ne vade via, nisi dixeris ave Maria,
 Sit semper sine vae, qui tibi dicit ave."* †

The wall, indeed, seems to have been adorned at frequent intervals, with statues. †

At the Reformation, the rental of the Monastery of Paisley, as reported to Government in January 1561-2, amounted to L. 2468 in money; 72 chalders and 4 bolls of meal; 40 chalders and 11 bolls of bear; 42 chalders, 1 boll, 1 firloft, and 1 peck of oats; and 706 stoncs of cheese; and at that time not less than twenty-nine parish churches belonged to this monastery. § After the Reformation, the abbacy was secularized by the Pope, in favour of Lord Claud Hamilton, third son of the Duke of Chatelherault ||; and

Historians have supplied the part of the inscription which is effaced, in consequence of which, the whole is given as under:

"John Murdo, sum tym callyt was I,
 And born in Parysse certainly,
 And had in keping all mason werk
 Of Santandrays, ye hye kirk
 Of Glasgu, Melros, and Paslay,
 Of Nyddedall, and of Galway:
 I pray to God and Mary bath,
 And sweet St John kep this haly kirk fra skaith."

* Semple thinks the line "pray for his salvation" was obliterated between 1710 and 1735.

† See *Renfrewshire Characters and Scenery*, published in 1824, p. 35.

‡ Quod (monasterium) magnificentissimo muro, quadro penitus, lapide pulcherrimis ac crebro, eminentibus statuis ultra mille passus undique cingebatur. *Leslaus*, as quoted in notes to *Renfrewshire Characters and Scenery*.

§ Chalmers's *Caled.* Vol. iii. p. 828.

|| Long before this period, free use seems, at times, to have been made of the property of ecclesiastics. The following is an extract of a letter, "from Dr Magnus to Cardinal Wolsey, dated at Edinburgh, 22d December 1524."—"The good Abbot of

on the 29th of July, 1587, erected by the King and Parliament, into a temporal lordship, when the whole property of the monastery, with the patronage of the several churches, was granted to Lord Claud, and his heirs in fee; and he himself was created Lord Paisley.* The opulent lordship of Paisley continued in that family till 1652, when James Earl of Abercorn sold it to the Earl of Angus, who next year sold the greater part of it to Lord William Cochran, who was created Earl of Dundonald, and Lord Cochran of Paisley in 1669. The barony of Kilpatrick, in Dumbartonshire, he disposed of to Sir John Hamilton of Orbistoun; the lands of Monkton in Ayrshire to Lord Bargany; and those of Glen, in Renfrewshire, to Lord Sempil, and others.† Great part of the lordship of Paisley was, at different times, sold off by the Dundonald family; and what remained of it was, in 1764, repurchased by James Earl of Abercorn, and now belongs to the Marquis of Abercorn.‡ Since the Reformation, the Abbey has been successively the residence of Lord Paisley, the Earl of Abercorn, and the Earls of Dundonald. But the Earl of Dundonald, having demolished the ancient gateway of the Abbey, and feued off the immediately adjoining grounds for building, the appearance of the place was entirely changed, and the Abbey rendered unfit for a family residence. It has, since that time, been let out, in separate dwellings, to tradesmen's families, and, for several years, has been in a state of great disrepair. The Abbey Park, with its orchards and gardens, are now the site of the New Town of Paisley, having been feued off for building ground by their proprietor in 1781. Till that period, the magnificent cut stone wall that enclosed the park remained nearly entire. But having been sold to the feuars, most of the stones have been since used in building their houses, and now (1837) the only portion of it, we

Pasley of late shewed unto me he was likly to susteyne gret hurt and damage, booth to hymself and his monastery by the saide twoe Erles, ("Angwisshe and Lenowx") if remedy were not founden in tyme convenient, for as he shewed unto me the said twoe Erles intended to keep thaire Cristenmas in his saide house, and to use every thing there at thaire libertye and pleasur, booth for hors and man, to the nnumber of iijc. persons, and therefore desired me to write for hym to the Erle of Angwisshe, and soe I did, and besides that matier, gave vnto the saide Erle of Angwisshe my poore advertismment, according to the contynne of your saide gracious letteres, copy of my letter with his answer therunto, pretermittig a grette parte of the effectuall matier wherynne I shulde have knowen his mend, I send also vnto your saide grace." Illustrations of Scottish History, page 112-113, printed for Maitland Club.

* Chalmers's Caled. Vol. iii. p. 827, and former Statistical Account Vol. vii. p. 59. also Hamilton's Description of Lan. and Renfw. p. 74. printed for Mait. Club. 1831.

† Chalmers's Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 827, and Statistical Account, Vol. vii. p. 85.

‡ Ibid.

believe, which has escaped destruction, is to be seen in its place, near the Seedhill Bridge.

Chapels.—In former times, there were several chapels within the parish of Paisley. In the town there stood one of these, dedicated to St Rock. The Stewarts had one at their manor-place of Blackhall, on the south-east of the town. Before the end of the twelfth century, an hospital was founded for infirm men, by Robert Croc, one of the most considerable vassals of the first Stewart already mentioned, as having settled at, and given the name to, Croc's town, afterwards called Cruickston. He not only endowed this hospital, but also built a chapel, and endowed a chaplain to perform divine service, for the infirm brothers of the hospital. A license was obtained by him and Henry Nes, both vassals of the Stewarts, to have, within the walled courts of their habitations, two oratories, or private chapels, for the celebration of divine service, on condition, that all the oblations received in those chapels, should be carried to the mother church of Paisley. This hospital seems to have stood on the left bank of the Lovern water, between old Cruickston and Neilston.*

Of the parochial church of Paisley, the monks enjoyed the tithes and revenues. Its tithes, according to the rental of the monastery, were yearly, 5 chalders, 1 firiot and 3 pecks of meal; 6 chalders, 9 bolls of bear; L. 10 for the tithes of the lands of Whiteford and Ralston; and L. 26, 13s. 4d. for the tithes of the town of Paisley: and, according to the same rental, the vicarage-revenues of the parish churches of Paisley and Lochwinnoch were L. 100 yearly.†

After the Reformation these tithes and revenues, along with the patronage of the parish, became the property of the commendators of Paisley, till 1587, when, as has been stated, the whole property of this opulent monastery was granted to Lord Claud Hamilton, the then commendator, and his heirs. The patronage of the church has since belonged to the different proprietors of the Lordship of Paisley, and is now in the hands of the Most Noble the Marquis of Abercorn. ‡

Of those who held the chief place in the monastery, whether as prior or abbot, or afterwards as commendator, Crawford has furnished us with a list, which future writers have copied. The

* Chalmers's Caled. Vol. iii. p. 828, 829, and 832.

† Ibid. p. 831, 832.

‡ Ibid. p. 832, and Statistical Account, Vol. vii. p. 94.

following, (for which the chartulary is our chief authority,) it is presumed, will be found more correct than the one referred to, although on this subject we cannot pretend to complete accuracy.*

Priors.—The monastery of Paisley was at first governed by a prior.

1. Osbert is the first prior on record in the chartulary, in confirmation by Pope Alexander III. 8th April 1172. † He was succeeded by

2. Roger, who, by charter dated about 1180, grants to Robert Croc and Henry de Nes, special friends of the convent, license to build the two chapels already noticed. ‡ By a charter, referred to the period between 1223 and 1233, he and the convent resign to Walter, second of the name, son of Alan, the island near the town of Renfrew, afterwards called King's Inch.

Abbots.—About 1220, the monks received authority to elect an abbot as superior of the convent. The first abbot is,

1. William. He is witness in an agreement dated 1225, with Hugh, son of Reginald, as to the lands of Achinchoss (Houston.) In 1235, he is witness to an agreement dated at Blackhall, between the Earl of Lennox and Gilbert the son of Samuel, as to the lands of Monachkenneran.

2. Stephen succeeded. A charter is granted by him in 1272, to Thomas of Fulton, and Matilda, his wife, of their lands of Fulton. Crawford states, that Andrew de Kelcou was the successor of William. But this is incorrect. The deed to which Crawford refers as evidence, instead of being dated in 1318, is dated in 1328, and proves that this Andrew was not abbot, but prior at the time, and acted in the matter as procurator and attorney for the abbot and monastery.§

3. Walter succeeded Stephen. His name is to be found in the Ragman Roll, as having come under submission to Edward in 1296. He was succeeded by,

4. Roger, in 1312, whose successor was,

5. John, who is Abbot in 1327, when Andrew, Bishop of Argyll, grants to the monks the fruits belonging to the rector in the churches of Kilfinnan, Kilkerran, and Kilcolmanel. In 1334, Pope Benedict granted this abbot and his successors the liberty

* * The rental book of Paisley furnishes information concerning several of the abbots, with the assistance of which, it may be possible to give a complete and correct list of them." Chart. Pais. pref. p. 6.

† Printed Chart. p. 406.

‡ Ib. 77, 78.

§ Chart. Pais. p. 27.

of wearing the mitre, ring, and other Pontificals. He was succeeded by,

6. John de Lithgow. His name occurs in the chartulary, in deeds bearing the dates 1384, 1387, 1388, 1408. Within the north porch of the Abbey Church is a stone with this inscription: *Johes d. Lychtgu abbas hujus monastii xx die mēsis Januarii anno dm mccccxxxiii elegit fieri suā sepulturā.* But it would appear that soon after 1408, he had resigned his office, for,

7. William Chisholm is Abbot in 1414. He was one of the monks of the monastery, and probably recommended himself to the Chapter by his activity in the temporal affairs of the convent, in which he appears to have had some concern during the rule of Abbot Lithgow. His successor was,

8. Thomas Morwe, who on 13th October 1420, and 21st April 1421, receives a safe-conduct to pass into England.* To him succeeded the celebrated,

9. Thomas Tarvas, who died 30th June 1459. The next abbot is,

10. Henry Crichton, who was translated to Dunfermline in 1472, and was succeeded by,

11. George Shaw, celebrated as the builder of the magnificent wall which surrounded the monastery and its gardens, and the founder of the burgh of Paisley in 1490, when his charter to the provost, baillies, burgesses, and community of the burgh is dated. He was a younger son of John Shaw of Sauchie, Stirlingshire, a family now represented by Sir M. Shaw Stewart of Greenock and Blackhall, Bart. His life has been written by Crawford. (*Lives of the Officers of State, Edinburgh, 1726, p. 367.*)

12. Robert Shaw, another son of the house of Sauchie, and nephew to Abbot Shaw, became his successor on his uncle's resignation in March 1498-9. He became Bishop of Moray, and was succeeded by,

13. John Hamilton, the last Abbot, who was appointed by the Pope, 18th May 1525. He was a natural son of James, first Earl of Arran, "by Mrs Boyd, a gentlewoman (says Keith) of a very good family in the shire of Ayr." He obtained a legitimation on the 20th of June 1546. In the same year he was made Bishop of Dunkeld, and, in 1549, Archbishop of St Andrews. He was declared a traitor by the government of the Regent Moray in 1568, for adhering to the cause of Queen Mary. In 1571, on the seizure of Dunbarton Castle, he fell into the hands of his enemies,

* See *Rotuli Scotiæ.*

and, ~~three days thereafter~~, was ignominiously hanged on a gibbet, in the town of Stirling. This abbot erected, at immense expense, a handsome tower to the Abbey Church.*

Commendators.—John Hamilton, about four years after his appointment to the Archbishoprick of St Andrews, resigned the abbacy, as already mentioned, † in favour of his nephew, Lord Claud Hamilton. But while the archbishop resigned his place as abbot, he still continued, as commendator, in possession of the rule and revenues of this valuable benefice. After his death, Lord Claud having also adhered to Queen Mary,

Robert, son to William Lord Sempil, heritable baillie of Paisley, was appointed commendator of the monastery, by the treaty of Perth in February 1572–3.

Lord Claud was afterwards restored to his rights, when he expelled Lord Sempil from the monastery, and took possession of it himself as commendator. He was in 1579 obliged to fly into England; ‡ but returning from it, in 1585, he was again restored to his property and rights; and on the 29th of July 1587, the whole property of the monastery, which he held for life, as commendator, was erected into a temporal lordship, and granted to him and his heirs in fee. §

Church.—The church of the monastery when entire appears to have consisted of a nave, a northern transept, and a choir, with the chapel commonly called “the Sounding Aile,” partly on what would have formed the site of the southern transept. The edifice has been 265 feet in length, measured over the walls. The internal measurement of the nave is 9 feet 3 inches in length, and 59 feet 6 inches in breadth, including the width of the ailes, the northern of which is 13½ feet, and the southern 12¾ wide, leaving 33 feet 5 inches as the width of the nave proper. The transept measures internally 92½ feet by 35, and the choir, which has been without ailes, 123½ by 32 feet. The measurement of the transept is carried across the church, to the wall of what is called St Mirren’s chapel, or the sounding-aile.

Externally, the walls of the side ailes of the nave are surmounted by a plain parapet, at about 27 feet from the ground:

* *Lealms de Origina, &c. Scotorum*, p. 10. † P. 176.

‡ “The twa breider, Lord John and Claud Hamiltouns, fled in England, and their lands at the King’s gift.” “*Ana cronickill of the Kingis of Scotland*,” p. 133, printed for Mait. Club.

§ *Acta Parl. iii.* 595, 432, 587, as referred to by Chalmers. See *Caledon*. Vol. iii. p. 337.

the walls of the nave rise 33 feet higher, and the parapet is pierced by embrasures. From the ground to the roof of the building, the height is 82, and to the top of the belfry 90 feet.

The west front of the church is an elevation of much dignity, composed of a grand central and two lateral compartments, separated and flanked by buttresses, three of which are terminated by recently erected cones, a similar one of which is on the east end of the nave. These cones are by no means ornamental. The centre of the front is horizontally divided into three compartments, in the lowest one of which there is a grand doorway very deeply recessed, flanked by two elegant blank arches, narrowly pointed, and adorned, as well as the arch of the great doorway, by a moulding filled with the toothed ornament. The mouldings of the principal arch rise from the capitals of fifteen slender shafts, alternately relieved and attached. In the second compartment are two well-proportioned windows, 26 feet in height, by $9\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, and divided into three simply pointed lights, the upper part being filled with tracery, consisting of circles and triangles. In the spandrils between, and on each side of these windows, are three Gothic niches, each 7 feet in height, in which images, it is said, were at one time placed. Each of these is ornamented with a wreath of toothed ornament, similar to that of the great archway, and four blank quatrefoils occupy the spaces between their pointed arches. The uppermost compartment contains one large window, 19 feet by 14 feet 9 inches, of five trefoil headed lights, above which is elaborate flowing tracery, filling the whole arch of the window. Each of the side compartments of this imposing front is pierced by a single window, of the lancet or narrow pointed form.

The ailes are lighted by pointed windows, in the decorated style, divided by mullions into two, three, and in some, four lights, the arched heads filled with flowing tracery of diversified character. Of the four in the north aile, the first and second from the transept seem to have undergone less change than the others, as their architecture has more the appearance of antiquity, or at least bears fewer marks of alteration or renovation than that of the others. This remark applies also to the second, from the west end of the south aile. On the north wall, toward its west end, is a porch, above which is erected the present vestry. Through this porch is an entrance, in a style of architecture somewhat similar to that of the western. On the left wall of the portico is

an inscription to the memory of John de Lithgow, mentioned among the Abbots of the monastery. The south aisle presents the same number of windows with the north. It shows also two gateways, now built up, one near each end of the building, the eastern one being semicircularly arched, and exhibiting the only feature which appears to be of Norman character, in the exterior of the edifice. The clerestory windows are twelve in number, on each side of the main body of the nave. They are formed by a mullion into two trefoil-headed lights, and quatre-foiled in the enclosing arch. As these windows are placed close to each other, opening within pointed arches, and finely proportioned, they impart to the church a peculiarly light and graceful appearance. That appearance on the south, however, is at present destroyed, as the whole range is built up with rough masonry. The eastern gable of the nave is merely a screen of modern masonry, filling up the western arch beneath the great tower. On the outside of this gable may be traced a mural tablet, apparently erected to the memory of the unfortunate John Hamilton, the last of the abbots. The remains of an inscription, and the arms of the Hamiltons, with the motto "misericordia et pax," are still visible. But neither the modern part of this gable, the window inserted in it, the bell turret that rises above it, nor the roof of the building, also of modern date, are at all in keeping with the other parts of the edifice. The large bell, which was once the tenant of the lofty tower that rose from the centre of this church, is said to have been carried by Oliver Cromwell to Durham, where it is still to be seen, and where it is likely to remain, till a suitable habitation be provided for it, in the place of its former abode.

The interior of the nave is truly magnificent. Ten massy clustered columns, 17 feet in height, with simple but elegantly moulded capitals, divide the aisles from the body of the fabric. Of these columns, the circumference of each of the two nearest the west is more than double that of any of the others, plainly indicating that they were intended by the architect, in connection with the front wall, to support two western towers. From the imposts of the columns spring pointed arches, with delicate and graceful mouldings. On the centre pillar to the south is sculptured in relief an antique coat of arms with grotesque supporters. From a floor formed above the first tier of arches spring those of the triforium. They are large and semicircular, springing from clustered

columns, and are enriched with a variety of mouldings. Within these finely sweeping arches, are included two pointed ones, cinque-foiled in the head, and separated from each other, by a short but delicately clustered column, with an ornamental capital. The space between the heads of these minor arches, and that of the principal arch above them, is open to the body of the structure, and beautifully cusped. From the summit of the spandrils, between each pair of arches, a semi-hexagonal projection juts out about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet, supported by two ranges of blocked corbels, receding downwards. These projections or platforms terminate, each in a sculptured grotesque figure, which seems groaning under the weight. We are disposed to think, that the flat summits of these singular projections, while they served to form the clerestory walk or gallery, which passed alternately behind and in front of the pillars, were also intended to be used as stands for torch-bearers at the celebration, by night, of funeral or other rites. The arches and other appendages of the triforium are, so far as we have heard, peculiar. Above the triforium rises the clerestory, the arches of which, opening also to the interior of the edifice, are simple, pointed, and narrow, but of just proportions, with clustered piers and plain mouldings. The original roof, which has given place to a simple coved one, was finely groined with sculptured bosses, at the intersections of the ribs, of which a specimen is still to be seen, towards the west end of the southern aisle. Near the roof of that aisle, are two very small trefoil-headed niches, in which, as is supposed, images at one time stood. The modern eastern window, in the inside, is filled with stained glass, and beneath it, is a large white marble monument, erected by the county of Renfrew, in memory of the late William M'Dowall of Castle Semple and Garthland, Esq., who represented this county in five different Parliaments. Other monumental tablets, a few of modern, but many more of ancient date, and much defaced, are arranged upon the walls of the building, or form part of the pavement of the area.

The nave, which is now the church of this extensive parish, underwent a thorough repair in the year 1789. The pulpit, which is attached to the centre pier on the northern side is of oak, and surmounted by a chaste Gothic canopy, rising to a point, at a considerable height; the pulpit and canopy are enriched with numerous carvings. The gallery is disposed around the whole edifice, and ornamented with the armorial bearings of the principal heritors. For the comfort of the sitters, stoves were introduced into

the church about six years ago; and it is at present, besides being one of the most magnificent, one of the most comfortable, places of worship in Scotland.

The transept, although ruinous, still displays in the fair proportions, and yet remaining beauty of its northern window, a most interesting relic of monastic grandeur. The window, about 35 feet in height, by 18 in breadth, occupies the greater part of the space that intervenes between the graduated buttresses, which support the northern angles of the transept. It is formed within an arch of beautiful proportions and of the decorated kind. The centre mullion still remains, dividing the window into two great lights, pointed and richly cusped. The space between them and the great arch has been filled with flowing tracery, a considerable part of which may still be seen, as well as portions of similar work, in the large windows that once adorned the sides of the transept.

Two large pointed archways, now filled up with masonry, once formed a communication between the centre part of the church, and St Mirin's aisle on the south.

The choir, the walls of which are now levelled to within ten feet of the ground, presents an interesting relic of monastic times. The piscina or font, which still remains, with an accompanying niche on each side, is near the east end of the south wall. A little to the west, in the same wall, are four recesses, supposed to have been stalls or seats for the priests, during the celebration of high-mass. One of these recesses, indeed, has a groove in it, as if for shelving, which may give rise to the conjecture, that it was intended rather as a vestiary than as a stall. The other three, however, are without grooves. They are all cinquefoiled at top within the pointed arch, which is ornamented with beautifully carved work.

The remains of the strong clustered pillars that supported the tower, which, surmounted by the lofty spire, once rose from the centre of the building, are still to be seen. The tower, we are told, on one occasion, and before it was finished, had, by its own weight, and the insufficiency of its foundation, given way. It was afterwards rebuilt, at an immense expense, by John Hamilton, the last of the abbots. * We cannot say what was the cause or the precise period of its second fall. The account given by tradition of its de-

* *Porro Pauleti immensis sumptibus, Ecclesie turrem, nulli apud nos secundam, extrinxit Joannes ultimus archiepiscopus S. Andree, quae antea parum firmo nixu fundamento, absolute mole sua considerat. — Ledent.*

struction is, that, "during the first effervescence of the Reformation, the fabric was materially injured, and shortly afterwards its tall spire, said to have been 300 feet in height, having been struck by lightning, during a violent thunder storm, fell, demolishing at the same time, the roof of the choir."* Although the architecture of the choir has been remarked as plainer than that of the other parts of the church, yet it is not improbable that the windows were decorated with flowing tracery.

St Mirin's Aile.—South of the nave or present church, and closely adjoining to it, is the *cloister court*, a quadrangle of about 60 feet, the buildings around which still display evident traces of the piazza itself. From this court entrance is afforded to St Mirin's or the sounding aile, called also the Abercorn chapel, a building on the east side of the court, of about 48 feet long by 24 broad, and well-paved,—about 15 feet of the floor at the east end being raised above the rest. In the east gable is a large and very handsome window, of four trefoil-headed lights, (though now blocked up,) the arches filled with tracery, composed chiefly of quatrefoils. Beneath this window is a series of sculptured figures, in tolerably bold relief, apparently of ecclesiastics engaged in various offices prescribed by the Romish ritual. These figures are placed in a sort of belt, of about a foot and a-half in width, extending between the two side walls, except in the space near the centre of the gable, where probably, at one time, an altar stood. This, with the piscina and its niche on the south wall, confirms the opinion of this structure having been the private chapel or oratory of the monks, whose magnificent church appears almost from the very first to have been put to general parochial use. On the north wall appear the

* Renf. Char. and Scen. p. 35. Mackie, in his historical description, states, that the lofty spire, and a great part of the church, were demolished, in consequence of the following manifesto, issued by the rulers of the day. "Traist friends, after maist hartey commendation, we pray you fail not till pass incontinent to ye kirk of ——— and tak down ye hail images yrof, and bryng furth till ye kirkyard, and birn thym oppingly, and syklyk cast down ye altris and picturis, and purge ye sayd kirk o' a' kynds o' monuments of idolatrie; and this ye fail not till doe, as ye will do us singular emplaissance, and see committis you till ye protection of God. From Edinburgh ye xiiij of August MDLX." Signed, "Argyle," "James Stewart," and "Ruthven." But with the opinion of this writer we cannot agree, as the above order was issued for the purpose, not of destroying the churches, but only of purging them of the images of a degrading superstition; and although some in their zeal might be carried further than prudence dictated, or than the rulers proposed by their manifesto, we can scarcely suppose our reforming ancestors were bent on the work of reckless destruction, especially as the following postscript is added to the manifesto: "and fail not, bot ye tak gude heed that neither the desks, winnocks, nor doors be any wise hurt, or broken, either stane work, glassine-work or iron-work."—See M'Lellan's Cathedral of Glasgow; a beautiful and interesting work, lately published.

two large arches, now filled up, noticed in our account of the transept and choir. The roof is groined, the ribs springing diagonally from two slender triplicated shafts on the southern side. Under the elevated pavement, at the east end, is a large vault 14 feet deep, the burying place of the Abercorn family; and on the south wall, between the large arches we noticed, is an inscription in memory of some younger branches of the Hamilton family. Nearly in the centre of the lower floor is an altar tomb, commonly called "Queen Bleary's tomb," which, after lying for many years in a mutilated state, and exposed in the open air, was found, about twenty years ago, among the fragments of other pieces of sculpture. It was reconstructed, coated with stone-coloured cement, and placed in its present position, under the direction of the late Dr Boog, to whose taste the inhabitants of Paisley are much indebted, not only for the transportation of this monument, from the cloister court to its present sheltered situation, but also for the removal of those ignoble buildings, which, at one time shaded the western façade of the church, blocking up the great doorway, and part of the fine windows. Round the upper part of the tomb is a series of compartments, filled with boldly sculptured figures of ecclesiastics, quatrefoils, and shields with armorial bearings. On the slab, which is the top of the monument, projecting so as to form a kind of moulded cornice over the sides and ends of the tomb, is the figure of a female, in a recumbent posture, with hands closed, in the attitude of prayer, the head resting on a cushion, and over the head an elegant canopy, of the kind common over Gothic niches. But whether this figure originally rested on the tomb, or whether all the parts put together belonged to the same tomb, or whether the tomb itself may not have been once an altar belonging to the private chapel, or to the parochial church, we cannot pretend to determine.

This chapel being vaulted, and containing nothing but this monument, has an echo so remarkable as to have obtained for it the name of "the sounding aisle." Instrumental or vocal music performed in it has a curious effect, from the prolongation and consequent mingling of the notes. The noise and reverberation arising from the sudden and forcible shutting of the door, after the entrance of a visitor, are often very startling. But on the whole, the account of their effects, as recorded by Pennant* and others, is rather exaggerated, or perhaps the erection of

* Pennant's Tour.

the tomb within it, and the brick-work which closes up the beautiful window, have diminished the echo: which we are informed is liable to be considerably affected by even the filling of an adjoining building, used as a hay-loft, it being then less perceptible than when that loft is empty:— a singular fact in acoustics, proving that not only the form of a building itself, but also the buildings with which it is connected, should be taken into account, when quantity of sound is a desideratum.

The late Dr Boog wrote an account of "Queen Bleary's Tomb," which is published in Vol. ii. part 2 of "the Transactions of the Society of the Antiquaries of Scotland." He seems to conjecture, from the figures in the east end of the aisle being so different from any other work about the church, that they must be referred to a period prior to that of the building of the present fabric; and he adds, "it is certain, from the foundation charter, that a church existed at Paisley before that time." In his account of the tomb, while he considers the basement as forming part of the monument, he puts no faith in the Paisley tradition of its being that of Marjory Bruce.* This chapel, however, is generally considered as having been built in 1499 by James Crawford of Kilwinnet, burgess of Paisley, and Elizabeth Galbraith, his wife, "who founded, constituted, and ordained a chapel, with its chaplain, in the church of the parish of Paisley, on the south side thereof, to the altar of St Mirin and Columba." For its support, the founders granted the lands and tenements of Seedhill and Wellmeadow in perpetual alms. "The charter bears to have been sealed with the seals of the Lord Archbishop of Glasgow and chapter; of the granters; of the abbot and convent of Paisley; of the burgh of Paisley, and others, to be obtained by grantees, or in their names. At Paisley, 15th July 1499."† Six seals have been appended, of which five still remain.

Within what formed the choir, and in the neighbouring graveyard, as well as within the church, are many monumental stones, with inscriptions, interesting to the antiquary. Beautiful specimens of these are to be seen engraved in the first volume printed for the Maitland Club of Glasgow. Elizabeth More, and Eupheme Ross, consorts of Robert II., Robert III., with Walter

* See Antiq. Trans. Vol. ii. Part 2. pp. 456, 461. On this subject, some curious conjectural information may be found in appendix Bd, to the volume of the Maitland Club for 1831.

† Charter in the charter-chest of the town of Paisley.

the great Steward, and his lady, are among the distinguished persons said to be interred in the monastery.

Presbytery.—On the establishment of the Reformed church of Scotland, a presbytery was erected at Glasgow, and another at Dumbarton, to the former of which the parishes in the eastern part of Renfrewshire were attached, and to the latter those in the western. But in 1590, all the parishes in this county, with the exception of those of Eaglesham and Cathcart, only part of which last is in Renfrewshire, were formed into a presbytery, the seat of which was fixed at Paisley. This arrangement continued till May 1834, when, by a deed of the General Assembly, a presbytery was established in the lower ward of the county, having its seat at Greenock, and to which that venerable court attached, in addition to seven parishes formerly connected with the presbytery of Paisley, the parish of Largs in Ayrshire, and that of Cumbray in Buteshire, both of which formerly belonged to the presbytery of Irvine. Previous to this division, the presbytery of Paisley contained 19 parishes and 20 ministers, the Abbey parish being collegiate. It was by the division left with only 12 parishes and 13 ministers. But, in consequence of the erection of chapels into parish churches, which took place in the same year, and the subsequent increase of churches within its bounds, that Presbytery now contains, with one exception, as many parishes and ministers as it did previous to the division; and although for two years it returned to the General Assembly a minister and elder less than formerly, yet it is again entitled to return the same number as it did before the erection of the presbytery of Greenock.

Although since the year 1570, Paisley has been the seat of a presbytery, the meetings have not been uniformly held in that town. On account of the pestilence in 1645, the court resolved, on the 6th of November of that year, to hold their meetings at Houston, and this they accordingly did, till the 26th of March, in the following year, when they resumed their sederunts at Paisley.* We find also that between the 26th of July 1676, and the 5th of March 1684, the meetings of presbytery were held at Renfrew, probably from the ministers who then officiated at Paisley having refused to countenance the jurisdiction of the Episcopal presbytery, in matters of church discipline. † By the archbi-

* "The presbiterie convent at Houstone, in respect of the visitation of the pestilence at Paisley, and resolvit to continew their presbiterial seate at Houstone, till it pleisit God that Paisley were free of that seeknes."—Presbytery Records.

† Presbytery Records.

shop, this practice was ordered to be discontinued, and the presbytery were enjoined to hold their meetings at Paisley, the proper seat. Accordingly, the first meeting of that court, after the injunctions of the Archbishop, was held at Paisley on the 5th of March 1684.*

On the introduction of Episcopacy in 1661, the presbytery was broken up; but it was reconstructed in 1663, by an act of the archbishop and synod. The first meeting, under this new regime, was held on the 29th of October 1663, when the whole presbytery consisted of only five members, † with two correspondents from the presbyteries of Glasgow and Dumbarton. ‡

At the era of the Revolution, another change seems to have taken place in the constitution of this presbytery. For we learn

* "Paisley, March 5, 1684." "No exercise this day, because of some disturbances at the brethren's first meeting at Paisley. The exercise is continued on Mr Wilson."—Presbytery Records.

† "John Hay, parson of Renfrew, moderator; James Taylor, Greenock; William Pierson, Paisley; Andrew Abercrombie, Kilmalcolm; and Alexander Turner, Neilston."—Presbytery Records.

‡ At the time of the "Act of Uniformity," 1663, by which 400 of the most zealous and able ministers of the Church of Scotland were ejected from their parishes, the presbytery of Paisley consisted of 16 ministers, of whom *one only* conformed to prelaacy; a *second* did conform, but it was at a later period. The name of the first of these was Mr James Taylor, of Greenock; and that of the second, Mr John Hamilton of Innerkip. The names of the rest, all of whom suffered "the loss of all things," rather than abandon their principles, were as follows, and they deserve to be held on honourable record:—Mr Alexander Dunlop, Mr John Drysdale, and Mr James Stirling, all of Paisley; Mr John Stirling of Kilbarchan; Mr Patrick Simpson of Renfrew; Mr Hugh Smith of Eastwood; Mr William Thomson of Mearns; Mr William Thomson of Houston; Mr James Hutchison of Killallan; Mr James Alexander of Kilmalcolm; Mr Hugh Peebles of Lochwinnoch; Mr James Wallace of Inchinnan; and Mr Hugh Walker of Neilston. "These persons were not only deprived of their livings in time to come, but of the last year's stipend for which they had served; and in the winter season (December 1663,) obliged, with sorrowful hearts and empty pockets, to wander I know not how many miles with their numerous and small families, many of them scarce knew whither. But the Lord wonderfully provided for them and theirs, to their own confirmation and wonder."—Wodrow's Hist. Vol. i. p. 326. 8vo ed.

On December 14, 1670, an interesting meeting was specially held at Paisley, betwixt Archbishop Leighton and Bishop Burnet, on the part of the Episcopalians, and the brethren of Paisley, Glasgow, and neighbourhood, in the Presbyterian interest, with the view of bringing about an "accommodation" between the parties. A full report of this meeting is given by Wodrow in the second volume of his History, (2d ed.) It ended in smoke. The Presbyterians were not satisfied of the sincerity of the motives which led to the proposal; and the Episcopalians were not prepared to grant such concessions as would please the conscientious adherents of presbytery. In 1679, a meeting of persecuted Presbyterian ministers was held at Paisley, when a wholesome warning was drawn up by them against popery, together with a short vindication of Presbyterian principles, but the paper was never printed. "After this," says Wodrow, "till the Revolution, Presbyterian ministers had few or no meetings; and I shall have little more to say of them, but that they remained in retirement, few venturing to preach in the fields, and some now and then in houses. And through the following years I shall have little more to relate, but a continued scene of persecution of ministers and people, and heavy oppression of the whole country."—Wodrow Vol. iii. p. 176.

that after the liberty granted in July 1687, the three presbyteries of Glasgow, Paisley, and Dumbarton, from the small number of ministers in each, formed themselves into one presbytery, whose meetings seem to have been held in Glasgow, as from one of our presbytery minutes, it appears that the actings of the court at that period, are recorded in the book of the presbytery of Glasgow. This arrangement continued only for a few months, as the presbytery of Paisley appear to have resumed their meetings at their own seat in December following.*

Presbytery Records.—As Paisley has long been the seat of a presbytery, and as the original parish, of which we are giving an account, comprehends more than one-half of the parishes now included within the bounds of that presbytery, it seems natural for us to take some notice of its records. They are preserved in fourteen volumes.

The first volume commences 16th September 1602, and terminates abruptly 24th December 1607, part of the record having been evidently lost or destroyed. The volume has suffered from damp, but is entire, and perfectly legible so far as it goes.

The second volume commences 20th April 1626, and ends 9th September 1647. This volume is in tolerable preservation.

The third volume has suffered more from damp than any of the preceding, and the edges of a few of the pages at the beginning have decayed, but there is not much obliteration in consequence. It commences 22d September 1647, although the date is worn away and the first page happens to be bound up between the third and fourth leaves. "A copy of the Acts anent the Discipline of the Kirk apud Glasgow 8 Aprilis 1612," has been introduced at the beginning of the volume. It ends 29th March 1660, but has the synod's docket dated 4th October 1660.

The fourth volume commences 25th April 1660, but stops short at the 6th page, after entering the minute of the sederunt of June 18th of the same year. Several blank leaves then occur, and at page 19th commence the transactions from December 27, 1687, thus omitting the record of the proceedings of the whole Episcopal pe-

* The following is the minute on the occasion, (27th Dec. 1687,) "After the liberty in July 1687, by the appointment of the groll meeting at Edr. in August, in ye year 1687, the presbyteries of Glasgow, Paisley, and Dumbritton, did joine together and made up one presbterie, by reasons of the paucitie of mins which continued until Decr. of ye sd year. The actings of qch are to be found in the presbterie book of Glasgow."—*Presbytery Records.*

ried, from 16th October 1663, to 7th September 1687, which are contained in a separate volume, being the fifth.

The cause of this is somewhat curious. When the change to Episcopacy took place, and broke up the presbytery, Mr James Stirling, then minister of Paisley, retained the presbytery book, the volume of records now described as the fourth, and having the minutes of court written up only to the 13th of June 1660, and that on six pages. After this volume, the Episcopal clergymen, who succeeded Mr Stirling and his brethren, made many inquiries, but all their attempts to procure it were unsuccessful. Robert Park, late clerk to the presbytery, was summoned, 31st August 1665, to give an account of what had become of the volume, as the want of it occasioned many scandals, for which satisfaction was not made, to be buried, or forgotten. He did not appear on the day mentioned, on account, it is said, of sickness; but on the 14th of the following month, he gave in a paper subscribed by his own hand, solemnly declaring, that "Mr James Stirling, late minister at Paisley, came and received the presbytery records from him."* The presbytery afterwards consulted the synod on the subject, but Mr Stirling having gone to India, they were obliged to submit to the want of the book, and accordingly commenced a record of their proceedings in another volume. After the Revolution, when many of the old ministers returned to their charges, inquiry was again made after the volume that had been so long amissing, and it was found in the possession of Mr James Stirling, minister of Kilbarchan, nephew of Mr Stirling, formerly minister of Paisley. In consequence of this, the presbytery, at a meeting on the 5th of February 1690, appointed Mr Stirling to deliver up the old presbytery book,† at the next meeting, which he accordingly did on the 16th of April following. Inquiry was also made after the minutes from 1660 to the Revolution, or during the Episcopal period. But this inquiry proving unsuccessful, the presbytery seem to have left the blank leaves between pages 6th and 19th, in order that these minutes, should they ever afterwards be found, might be inserted in their proper place, and to have commenced to engross their procedure from 27th December 1687, on page 19th of this volume, which is styled "the old presbytery book." Hence the appearance which this book presents, and hence has this volume com-

* Minutes of Presbytery.

† Presbytery records.

pletely escaped any admixture of Episcopal leaven. This volume closes with the minute of 26th October 1699.

The fifth volume, already mentioned, contains the minutes from 16th October 1663, to 7th September 1687. The history of this volume, which contains the minutes of proceedings during the Episcopal period, is also somewhat singular. We have already noticed the unsuccessful inquiry made by our fathers after the minutes of this period. After a lapse of nearly a century and a-half, Mr Douglas, then presbytery clerk, the present minister of Kilbarchan, having got a slight hint of a volume having been seen in a private library, belonging to a family in Lorn, apparently forming part of the records of the presbytery of Paisley, immediately instituted a correspondence on the subject, and after the lapse of a considerable time, during which his correspondence was going on, he had the satisfaction of delivering it up to the presbytery about twelve years ago, for which he received from that court an unanimous vote of thanks. How this volume found its way to Lorn, we cannot say; but Mr Douglas in a note to us, says, "this light volume (for it is not at all ponderous) had found its way, I presume, to that district of Argyllshire, through some one clergyman or layman, a retainer of the Episcopal church, who seems to have inferred his title to retain the record in question, on the same principle on which more important documents found their way to Zion College." *

The sixth volume commences 7th November 1699, and terminates with the minute of 10th September 1707.

The seventh volume brings down the minutes from 7th October 1707, to 18th July 1722; the eighth from 8th August 1722, to 19th of March 1735; the ninth, from 1st April 1735, to 26th September 1752; the tenth, from 25th October 1752, to 23d October 1774; the eleventh, from 30th November 1774, to 7th July 1790; the twelfth, from 5th August 1790, to 4th September 1800; the thirteenth, from 3d December 1800, to 7th May 1823; and the fourteenth, from 4th June 1823, to the date of

* The first notice of this volume, Mr Douglas had from Mr Storie, of Roseneath, and his correspondence was with Dr Campbell of Kilninver, and Hugh M'Lachlan, Esq. writer, Glasgow, the last of whom is the person who put it into his hands. It is singular enough that it should be to the minister of Kilbarchan, the presbytery are indebted for the recovery of both of these volumes. May we not hope, that he or our present presbytery clerk may yet get some "slight hint," which may lead to the recovery of a volume, which at present seems to be lost, containing the minutes between 1697 and 1699, and which ought to be the second volume of the records?

the last meeting of presbytery, which was held on the 1st of this month, February 1837.

Parishes of Paisley.—Since 1641, the old or Abbey parish of Paisley has had the benefit of two ministers. In that year the minister, Mr Calvert, agreed to give a colleague out of his stipend, (originally 16 chalders of meal,) “5 chalders, and that according to the act of high commission, and promised, moreover, that he would give a chalder more, provided the entrant should be agreeable to the presbytery, the parish, and himself.”* The stipend of the charge, thus erected, has since received several augmentations, and it now consists of 22 chalders, half meal and half barley, with L. 15 for communion elements. † The stipend of the first charge, which was augmented in 1830, is 22 chalders, half meal and half barley, with L. 20 for communion elements, and about L. 19 as compensation for grass glebe. The arable glebe, including the site of the manse, consists of about 4½ acres, and is well situated for letting out as garden ground. This charge has a manse attached to it. The present one was built in 1824, and reflects great credit on the taste and liberality of the heritors.

From the increase of population in the parish, particularly in the town, an additional church became necessary, and accordingly in 1736, the burgh was erected into a separate parish, by a decret of the Lords Commissioners for the plantation of churches. At the same time, a charter was obtained from Lord Dundonald, the patron of the parish, granting liberty to the magistrates and community to build within the burgh, a church or churches, of which the patronage was to be vested in the magistrates and town-council. In consequence of the arrangements they entered into, a church was erected in 1736, as the parish church of the burgh of Paisley. From the continued increase of the population, additional church accommodation became again necessary, and in the year 1756, another place of worship was erected. Being built on the height called Oakshawhead, the highest part of the town, it was distinguished by the name of the *High Church*, and the former erection, from its relative situation, was denominated the *Laigh Kirk* or *Low Church*. In the space of other twenty-five years, the population still rapidly increasing, it was found ne-

* Stat. Act. Vol. vii. p. 94.

† There was once a house attached to this charge, although it seems never to have been recognized as a manse. It was the gift of the town to the second minister, who had the special charge of the burgh.

ecessary to add a third church, to the two already in existence; and accordingly, this was done in 1781, by its erection, near to the site of the High Church; and this place of worship, from its relative situation, received the name of the *Middle Church*. The burgh of Paisley, which till the erection of this third church, had continued one parish, was on the 20th of February of that year, by a deed of the Court of Teinds divided into three parishes, called each from its particular churches, the Low Church parish, the High Church parish, and the Middle Church parish: The patronage of these churches belongs to the magistrates and town-council. The original stipend allocated to the minister of the burgh of Paisley was 1000 merks Scots, with an allowance in lieu of a manse and glebe. This, as well as the stipends of the other two ministers, has been several times augmented, and now the stipend of each is L. 300 per annum, communion elements being provided by the council and kirk-session. The stipends are paid out of the funds or common good of the burgh.

A small addition to church accommodation in the burgh was again made in the year 1819, when St George's Church was erected. This, however, was merely an increase of 600 sittings, in the Low Church parish, for the minister of the Low Church was transferred to this new erection, which was constituted by the presbytery, and still continues to be, the church of that parish, while the old Low Church is no longer used as a church in the establishment.

Such is all the provision, which the law has made since the period of the Reformation, for the spiritual interests of this extensive district, with its great and rapidly increasing population. Its scanty nature will appear, if it be considered, that in the original parish

There is a population of	26177	with church seats for	1150
In St George's or Low Church parish,	6949		1850
In High Church parish,	14998		2000
In Middle Church parish,	2762		1500
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	67880		8500

To remedy the want of church accommodation in these parishes, six chapels, including a Gaelic church, have been erected. All of these have been raised to the rank of parish churches, each, with the exception of the Gaelic one, having a parochial district assigned to it. The Gaelic Church was built in 1798, and although situated in the High Church parish, is intended for the accommodation of the Highlanders in general, in Paisley and its neighbourhood. The oldest of the other five is the church of Johnston, in the western district of the Abbey parish, built in the year

1792. Another was opened for public worship, at Lovern, in the south-eastern district of the parish, on the 23d of March 1835, to which a pastor has been since ordained. In the burgh three similar places of worship have been erected, called the North Church; Martyr's Church; and the South Church; and all of them are already provided with ordained clergymen. A great addition has been thus made to the church accommodation and pastoral superintendence of our destitute population. Still, however, unless these places of worship be so endowed as to admit of a number of seats being set apart for the poor, and the whole let at very moderate rents, the objects of an establishment will be but partially answered.

The additional church accommodation, obtained in consequence of these erections, may be stated as follows:

{ Johnston	1000				
{ Lovern,	670	= 1670 + 1150 in Abbey,		= 2820	{
{ Gaelic,	1350				{
{ Martyrs,	1250	= 2600 + 2000	High.	= 4600	{
North,	1000	+ 1500	Middle,	= 2500	
South,	1004	+ 1850	St George's	= 2854	

There is thus church accommodation to the amount of 12,774

sittings provided by the Establishment, for the whole population of the town and parishes of Paisley, amounting to 57,880. To each of the clergymen of these new churches, a bond of provision is granted, varying from L. 80 to L. 100. But it is understood that the bond shall merely specify the minimum stipend, while it is expected that the income will always considerably exceed that small sum. Besides his stipend, the minister of the Gaelic Church has a manse, lately built for him, by his congregation.

The small amount of church accommodation, as well as pastoral superintendence provided by the Establishment in this place, would have been more severely felt by our population, had it not been for the laudable exertions of our dissenting brethren, who, to a considerable extent, have remedied the evil. In these parishes, there are eleven different churches belonging to presbyterian dissenters viz. one to the Reformed Presbytery; one to the Old Burghers; three to the Relief; and six to the United Secession. There are also several bodies of Independents, including Methodists, Baptists, Glassites, Unitarians, and Universalists. In Paisley, there is also an Episcopal chapel, which was recently erected, and in the new town, is the only Roman Catholic Chapel within the bounds of this presbytery. The duties of the priest extend to a population

of about 7000, chiefly immigrants from Ireland, one-half of whom may be reckoned as residing within the parishes of Paisley.

The accommodation provided by these different denominations may be stated as follows :

By the Reformed Presbytery,	- - -	1000
Old Burghers,	- - -	300
United Secession,	- - -	6540
Relief,	- - -	4290
Independents of different classes,	- - -	2600
Episcopalians,	- - -	400
Roman Catholics,	- - -	1000
		<hr/>
		16,130

The ministers of the Presbyterian dissenting churches are paid by their hearers, and their different stipends may be stated as varying from L. 100 to L. 250 per annum. Three of them are provided each with a house and garden.

The following table exhibits the numbers connected with the different denominations in these parishes, with the number of sittings in the churches, and communicants belonging to each denomination. In this table, the children are reckoned to belong to the denomination of the head of the family.

Abbey parish,	No. of families,	5377	Total population,	26177				
Low parish,		1555		6949				
High parish,		3279		14992				
Middle parish,		1994		9762				
		<hr/>		<hr/>				
		12205		57890				
		<hr/>		<hr/>				
	Established Church.	Episcopals.	Reformed Presbyter.	Old Burghers.	United Secession.	Relief.	Minor Denomina.	Roman Catholics.
Abbey parish,	14049	510	526	322	3926	2845	1237	1799
Low parish,	3229	101	76	16	1109	636	467	262
High parish,	5547	402	164	33	2390	1372	1144	727
Middle parish,	5194	355	141	35	1203	621	431	1158
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	27959	1368	907	406	8627	5474	3279	3946
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total Dissenters includ. Roman Catholics.	No Denomination.	Seats held in Established Churches.	Do. in Dissent. Churches.	Total seats held.	Communi-cants in Estab. Churches.	Do. in Dissent. Churches.	Total Com-municants.
Abbey parish,	11165	963	4146	4055	8201	2841	2679	5520
Low parish,	2666	1054	1011	972	1983	667	617	1284
High parish,	6234	3211	1965	2178	4143	1439	1331	2770
Middle parish,	3944	684	1868	1425	3293	1324	1163	2507
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	24009	5912*	8990	8630	17620	6271	5810	12081

* The marked difference of comparative numbers belonging to this class in the

as well as of the attachment of the inhabitants to the church of their fathers. The other churches are, generally speaking, well attended.

Ministers.—After the period of the Reformation, the first individual whom we find on record, as minister of Paisley, is

Patrick Adamson,* who was afterwards promoted to the archbishoprick of St Andrews, and is particularly noticed in the history of the church. He is mentioned as minister of Paisley in 1573. He was made archbishop in 1576, and after a life of many singular reverses, died in 1591. His successor seems to have been

Andrew Polwart, afterwards subdean of Glasgow,

Thomas Smeaton is mentioned as next in succession, in 1578. He succeeded Andrew Melville as Principal of the College of Glasgow in 1580, and died on the 13th December 1583, in the forty-seventh year of his age. He was a man of prodigious learning, and admired for the virtues of his private life, as well as the elegance of his scholarship.†

Andrew Knox, of the family of Ramfurlie (Ranfurlie), from which the celebrated John Knox is also descended, is next on the list. He seems to have been translated from the church of Lochwinnoch, to that of Paisley, about the year 1585, in which he continued till the year 1606, when King James, having restored the estates of the bishops, Mr Knox was promoted to the bishoprick of the Isles. He was again translated by the King, in 1622, to the Episcopal see of Raphoe in Ireland; when his son Mr Thomas Knox, was advanced to the bishoprick of the Isles. Andrew Knox is the supposed ancestor of the Viscounts Northland, lately created *Barons of Ransfurlie*. He seems to have been esteemed a man of learning, free of bigotry, and averse from all manner of persecution on account of matters of church-government. So liberal

* Mr Patrike Adamsons, minister, vj. xj lb to be payit of the thryddis of Paislay, November 1572. Register of ministers, 1567, page 35, printed for the Maitland Club in 1830.

† The following is the account which honest James Melville in his "Diary" has given of Mr Smeaton. "Mr Thomas was verie wacriff and peanfull, and skarslie tuk tym to refresh nature. I haiff seen him oft find fault with lang denners and suppers at general assemblies; and when uthers wer therat, he wald abstain, and be abut the penning of things (wherein he excellit, bathe in langage and form of letter) and yit was necht rustic, nor auster but sweet and affable in companie, with a modest and naive graivite; verie frugale in fude and reymnt; and, walked maist on fut; whom I was verie glad to accompanie, whyllis to Sterling, and now and then to his kirk, for my instruction and comfort. He lovit me exceeding well, and wald at parting thrust my head into his boam and kies me." pp. 56, 58. He was chosen to succeed Melville as Principal of Glasgow College in 1580, where he was sole Professor of Divinity, and was also minister of Govan. He was Moderator of Assembly 1583; and he died on the 13th December of the same year.

were his opinions, that, in conjunction with some clergymen of Presbyterian principles, he concurred in ordaining several ministers of that communion, giving as his reason, that "he thought his old age prolonged for little other purpose, but to do such good offices for the propagation of the Gospel." He died in 1632.* On his translation,

Patrick Hamilton was appointed minister. This appointment seems to have been made in 1607. He was previously minister of Lochwinnoch.

Robert Boyd of Trochrig, in the shire of Ayr, eldest son of James, "Tulchan,"—Archbishop of Glasgow, was admitted minister of Paisley, on the 1st of January 1626. Previous to this time, he had been successively Principal of the Colleges of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and was universally esteemed one of the most learned, liberal, and pious men of his age. His manse was the "fore house of the abbey." Wodrow relates, that, one Sunday afternoon, the master of Paisley, brother to the Earl of Abercorn, with some others, forcibly entered his house while he was preaching, cast all his books on the ground, and afterwards locked the door. Complaint of the aggression having been made to the secret council, the Master of Paisley and the baillies were summoned to appear before them. But at the intercession of Boyd, and on the Master expressing contrition for the wrong he had done, the complaint was departed from, and Trochrig was ordered to be re-possessed. The baillies apparently yielded obedience to the command of the secret council, and endeavoured to put Boyd in

* In the year 1592, the country was much disturbed by apprehensions of the secret workings of the Papists, and measures were adopted for the purpose of counteracting them. In each presbytery an individual was nominated to watch their proceedings, to collect information from his brethren, and to correspond with a committee, which was to sit in Edinburgh for the common safety. Andrew Knox was appointed the corresponding member from the presbytery of Paisley, but deeds and not words were fitted for the eager spirit of the future bishop. Having received secret intelligence that George Ker,* a Doctor of Laws, and brother of Lord Newbattle, was about to proceed to Spain, with secret letters from the disaffected Lords, accompanied by a number of students of the College of Glasgow, he proceeded to the Island of Cumbray, and seized him. On his person were found letters from certain priests in Scotland and blanks subscribed by the Earls of Huntly, Angus, and Errol, with a commission to one Crichton a Jesuit, to fill up the blanks, and address them to those for whom they were intended. These papers, with Ker's confession, disclosed the notable project by which the King of Spain was to land 30,000 men on the west coast of Scotland, who, in conjunction with the troops to be furnished by the three earls, were to suppress the Protestant, and to procure the re-establishment, of the Roman Catholic religion in Scotland.

Much information regarding him may be obtained in the earlier part of Vol. I. of Dr Reid's valuable "History of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland," and in "Gregory's Account of the Isles."

* Some accounts say erroneously, Barclay of Ladyland.

possession of his house; but the locks were found filled with stones and other articles, and the baillies refused to break open the doors. On Mr Boyd retiring, he was grossly assaulted by the women, with opprobrious speeches, the men having purposely absented themselves. They threw dirt and stones at him, actually compelling him to leave Paisley, and retire to Glasgow. A complaint was made by the Bishop of Glasgow, of the disgraceful treatment of this worthy clergyman; but little or no justice was administered to him, the noble aggressors being allowed to depart, on promising to repossess the minister, and allow him the peaceful enjoyment of his house. The "rascally women," as Wodrow calls them, also escaped merited punishment. Trochrig, however, never again exercised his ministry at Paisley, but died at Edinburgh, on the 5th of January 1627, * in the forty-ninth year of his age.

Mr John Hay is mentioned as having succeeded Mr Boyd in his charge, on the 21st May 1627. He had been formerly minister of Killellan, and he afterwards left Paisley to fill his father's place in Renfrew, about the year 1628.

Mr John Crichton, who is denominated parson of Campsie, was admitted to this charge, by licence of the Archbishop of Glasgow, on the 1st of September 1629. He was a man of a singular character, and having been accused of erroneous doctrine, and other misdemeanours, he was deposed by the General Assembly held at Glasgow, on the 21st of November 1638.

Henry Calvert, his successor, was ordained on the 1st July 1641. It was this incumbent who made provision for a colleague minister, and the reason assigned for this is, that the charge had become "an over great burden to one." His colleague was appointed in October 1644. A few years after this arrangement had been entered into, it appears that Mr Calvert's health had become infirm, for in October 1650, his confirmed disability induced himself and his colleague, with the parishioners of Paisley, to supplicate the presbytery to concur with them, in inviting Mr John Drysdale, who had left Ireland on account of persecution, to supply Mr Calvert's place. The presbytery having acceded to their wish, Mr Drysdale was appointed assistant to Mr Calvert, with a stipend of 700 merks, provided by the parish, during Mr Calvert's lifetime. On Mr Calvert's death, and the succession of Mr Dunlop, his colleague, to the first charge, the second charge

* Wodrow's life of Trochrig, MS. as referred to by Mackie, in his Hist. Descrip. of Abbey and Town of Paisley.

was filled not by Mr Drysdale, but by Mr Stirling. Mr Drysdale, however, appears to have continued at Paisley. For on the establishment of Episcopacy in 1661, he incurred the displeasure of the government for his non-conformity, and having been charged with turbulent and seditious practices, the Earl of Eglinton, as Sheriff of Renfrew, was ordered to seize his person, and send him in to the council, by the 9th of December. Mr Drysdale absconded, and, as Wodrow conjectures, fled to Ireland.

Alexander Dunlop was removed from the second to the first charge, on the 28th December 1653. He was of the house of Dunlop in Ayrshire, a branch of the Dunlops of Achensketh. He married Jean, daughter of William Mure of Glanderston, and was father of the celebrated William Dunlop, Principal of the College of Glasgow. On account of his opposition to Episcopacy, he was, after being unsuccessfully dealt with by the council, silenced from preaching, but allowed to return to his family. At length, on the 6th of January 1663, he was summoned before the council, and having refused to take and subscribe the usual oaths, "the Lords of Council ordained him to be banished forth of his Majesty's dominions, reserving to themselves to prefix the time of his removal; and, in the meantime, ordain him to confine himself within the bounds of the diocesses of Aberdeen, Brechin, Caithness, Dunkeld, and allow him the space of ten days, to go home, and order his business and affairs." "He was," says Wodrow, "a person of eminent piety, and extraordinary diligence and learning, and singular prudence, and sweetness of temper. He has left behind him, among other valuable papers, collections towards a system of divinity in English, which, had he been able to have put in order, would have been one of the most valuable bodies of divinity which have been drawn up." *

William Pierson appears as minister of Paisley, in the first presbytery, under the new order of church government, which was held at Paisley on the 29th of October 1663. Mr Pierson having been afterwards presented to Dunfermline, received his ordinary's demission, and a testimonial of his carriage from his brethren, on the 6th of February 1666.

James Chambers succeeded him in 1667, and continued minister of Paisley till 1669; for we find,

* Wodrow's Hist. Vol. i. p. 318, 8vo. ed.

"In this calm (the indemnity after Pentland, December 1667,) Mr Alexander Dunlop, and Mr James Ferguson, two eminent Presbyterian ministers, died."—Ib. Vol. ii. p. 100.

Matthew Ramsay mentioned as his successor, on the 2d of September 1669. Mr Ramsay had been minister of Kilpatrick, from which office he was deposed in 1665, "for no cause alleged but his not attending their prelatical synods and presbyteries." * He now, however, accepted of the indulgence granted to the non-conforming clergymen, and was appointed by an act of the privy-council to the vacant charge of Paisley. † "He was," says Wodrow, "a person of the most shining piety, stayed gravity, of the greatest eminency of gift, extraordinary sweetness of temper, and of a most peaceable behaviour." ‡ Mr John Baird, late minister at Innerwick, also received the benefit of the indulgence, and was appointed, on the 16th of December 1669, assistant to Mr Ramsay, who it appears had, from bodily infirmity, become unable to discharge the duties of his office. § Mr Baird, it is probable, would have been afterwards deposed, as he too was cited to appear before the council, on the 6th of March 1684, for non-conformity. But a testimonial of his sickness having been produced, his case was deferred until April. "Whether this sickness carried him to heaven at this time, I know not," says Wodrow, "but I find no more about him in the register. He was a minister of great learning and piety, and singular skill in medicine." ||

To the indulged ministers the first who succeeded was

John Fullarton. The first sederunt of Presbytery, at which he appears, is of date 12th November 1684, when he was moderator. He was ejected at the revolution. In 1720, he was elected Bishop of Edinburgh on the death of Bishop Rose, and was one of the first of the post-revolution prelates. He died in May 1727.

Anthony Murray was admitted minister of this charge on the 2d of April 1688. "The brethren gave him the right hand of fellowship, having been an old actual minister." ¶ No notice of him appears in the Presbytery records after 27th of February 1689. ** His successor was,

William Leggat, from Ireland, who, for the time, was residing at Fenwick. On the 22d of August 1689, he accepted of the call from Paisley, (*salvo jure ecclesie Hiberniæ,*) and received the right

* Wodrow, Vol. i. p. 427, 8vo. ed. † Id. Vol. ii. p. 133. ‡ Id. Vol. i. p. 427.
§ Id. Vol. ii. p. 134. ¶ Id. Vol. ii. p. 38. ¶ Presbytery Records.

** Murray was a relation of the Duchess of Lauderdale, and in 1677 was asked by the Presbyterian ministers to use his interest in their behalf, with the Duke. He did so, and pressed particularly the relief of the persecuted ministers from the Bass. Lauderdale sternly refused, "the party," as he said, "being unworthy of any favour."—Wodrow, Vol. ii. p. 348.

hand of fellowship accordingly. He returned to Ireland in the end of 1691, and was succeeded by,

Thomas Blackwell, who was ordained on the 28th of August 1664. He was called to the charge on the 5th of April 1693, but his ordination was delayed till the above date, for reasons mentioned in the Presbytery records, one of which was his own "uncleanness" about accepting of the call. He was translated to Aberdeen on the 9th of October 1700.

Thomas Brown, who had previously held the second charge, succeeded him in 1700. His successor was,

Robert Millar, a man distinguished for learning and piety. He was author of the "History of the Propagation of Christianity," and other works illustrative of the scriptures, and the history of the church. He was appointed to his charge in Paisley on the 28th December 1709, and died on the 16th December 1752.

James Hamilton succeeded him on the 9th of June 1753, being translated from the second charge. He died 14th March 1782, in the sixty-first year of his age, and thirty-first of his ministry.*

Robert Boog, D. D. succeeded to this charge on the 29th August 1782, having, for about eight years, held the second. He died on the 24th July 1823, and was succeeded on the 9th of April of the following year, by the present incumbent, who was translated from Ballantrae, where he had been ordained on the 11th May 1815.

Second Charge.—Provision having been made by Mr Calvert, for a colleague minister in this parish, in the year 1641, as already mentioned, John Fullerton was appointed to it the same year, but he does not seem to have accepted of the appointment. He appears to have been afterwards minister of Kilwinning.

Alexander Dunlop was the first who held this charge. He was appointed to it in October 1644, and held it till his removal to the first charge on the 28th of December 1653.

James Stirling was ordained his successor in this charge, on the 12th of June 1654. Like his colleague, Mr Dunlop, he was, on the introduction of Episcopacy, ejected from his charge. He wrote the

* On this clergyman a curious epitaph was written by Mr Francis Douglas, author of a descriptive work on "the East Coast of Scotland," and printed in the Scotch Magazine of 1783. We cannot insert the whole, but the following is the concluding clauses. "Unnoticed by the crowd, he chose to walk with virtue in the shade. Confiding in the Supreme Being, and animated by the hope of immortality, he bore a long decline of health with uninterrupted tranquillity, and died in perfect peace. Gentle shade! congenial spirits gather round thee: farewell. He died 14th March 1782, in the sixty-first year of his age, and thirty-first of his ministry."

first or historical part of that famous book "Naphtali, or the wrestlings of the Church of Scotland."*

William Eccles, an indulged minister, seems to have been appointed to Paisley about the same time with Mr Ramsay (1669,) whose assistant was Mr Baird, and it is therefore probable his appointment was to the second charge. The exact period of it we have not been able to ascertain. But he was deprived of his license by the council on the 30th of January 1684.†

John Taylor, formerly minister at Mearns, succeeded to this charge in 1685. He, like Mr Fullerton, was deprived at the Revolution. This charge seems to have remained vacant from the time of his removal till it was filled by

Thomas Brown, as he is the next in succession, whose name appears in the records. He was ordained on the 4th May 1698. From this charge he was translated to the first in 1700, and from that period, the second charge appears to have been vacant till the ordination of

Robert Mitchell, on the 22d September 1722, who, on the 21st March 1739, was translated to the church and parish lately before erected within the burgh of Paisley.

William Fleming, previously minister of Kirkintilloch, succeeded him, on the 26th June 1740; and died on the 2d January 1747.

James Hamilton, who succeeded to this charge, was ordained on the 24th April 1751. He was soon after this translated to the first charge.

John Rae, his successor, was ordained on the 24th January 1754; and died on the 4th September 1757.

Archibald Davidson, next in succession, was ordained on the 7th September 1758. From this charge he was translated to the parish of Inchinnan, on the 20th October 1761, and thereafter to the principality of the College of Glasgow.

Alexander Kennedy, his successor, received ordination on the 10th June 1762, and died on the 12th July 1773. He was succeeded by

Robert Boog, who was ordained to this charge on the 21st April 1774, and held it till his translation to the first, on the 29th August 1782.

* The "reasoning part of Naphtali was written by one of the best lawyers of his time, Mr (afterwards Sir) James Stewart of Goodtrees."—Wodrow's Hist. Vol. ii. p. 100.

† Wodrow, Vol. iv. p. 38.

James Mylne, his successor, was ordained on the 27th March 1783; and resigned his charge on the 4th October 1797, having been elected to the chair of Moral Philosophy in the College of Glasgow, which he still continues to fill.

James Smith succeeded the Professor, and was ordained on the 26th January 1798. He held this charge till his death, on the 28th January 1817.

The present incumbent succeeded Mr Smith, and was ordained to his charge on the 10th April 1818.

Low Parish.—At the opening of the new church in the burgh of Paisley, or the “Laigh Kirk,” Robert Mitchell was translated from the second charge of the original, now the Abbey parish, to this newly erected parish, on the 21st March 1739. He died on the 9th March 1746, and was succeeded by

Peter Scott, who had been ordained as his colleague and successor, on the 27th June 1740. He died on the 4th August 1753; and his successor was

Robert Findlay, D. D. an exemplary minister, and a man of profound learning, who had been settled at Galston, on the 21st of March 1754. He was translated to Paisley on the 29th January 1756; thereafter to the Ramshorn parish of Glasgow, and ultimately to the Divinity Chair of the university in that city, which he filled till his death in 1814, at a very advanced age. He was succeeded by

John Witherspoon, D. D. LL. D., who was translated from Beith on the 16th June 1757. He resigned his charge on the 22d June 1768, and went to America, and became the distinguished President of Princeton College, New Jersey.* He died in 1794.

James Morrison, A. M., from Strathblane, was the next incumbent, having been admitted to this charge on the 29th June 1769. He died on the 28th March 1781, when his place was filled by

Colin Gillies, who, having been ordained assistant and successor to Mr David Turner of the West Parish Greenock, was admitted to this charge on the 19th December 1781; and died on the 6th March 1810.

John Reid, who was ordained his assistant and successor on the 17th December 1801, survived him only a few months. He died on the 10th of November of the same year. (1810.)

Robert Burns, D. D., was ordained on the 19th July 1811. He was removed from the Laigh Kirk to St George's, in which he

* The best account of the life of this distinguished man will be found in the Edinburgh Christian Instructor for 1830, p. 673.

now officiates, but is still minister of the same parish, St George's being now the church of that parish.

High Parish.—After the opening of the High Church in 1756, James Baine, A. M. was admitted to the charge, on the 22d April of that year. On the 26th March 1766, he resigned his charge, having joined the presbytery of the Relief Church, in which connexion he died in 1790.

George Muir, D. D. succeeded him, on the 30th October 1766. He died on the 20th July 1771, and was succeeded by

William Taylor, D. D. who was ordained on the 2d July 1772. Dr Taylor was, on the 15th September 1780, translated to the High Church of Glasgow, and afterwards succeeded to the principality of the University in that city.

John Findlay, D. D. his successor, was ordained on the 14th March 1791, and died on the 25th March 1821.*

John Geddes, his assistant and successor, was ordained on the 9th February 1821. He was removed to St Andrew's parish, Glasgow, on the 18th January 1832, in which he remained till his death, on the 24th May of the following year.

The present incumbent succeeded him. He was translated from the Scotch Church, Crown Court, London, to which he had been ordained by the presbytery of Paisley, on the 21st of July 1831. He was admitted to his present charge on the 14th May 1832.

Middle Parish.—Of the Middle Parish of Paisley, the first minister was

John Snodgrass, D. D., who was translated from the town of Dundee, and inducted to his charge in Paisley, on the 19th December 1781, which he held till his death, on the 22d June 1797.

Jonathan Ranken his successor, was ordained on the 15th June 1798, and died minister of this parish on the 7th March 1831.†

James Begg, A. M. from Lady Glenorchy's Chapel, Edinburgh, succeeded him. He was admitted on the 25th November 1831, and was translated to the parish of Liberton on the 18th June 1835.

The present incumbent, his successor, was inducted to his charge on the 12th February 1836.

Johnston.—It was only in the year 1834 that the village or town

* An interesting memoir of this faithful and eminently useful minister was written by Mr Thomas Crichton, Master of the Hospital, Paisley, and to which reference may be made for full information regarding him. Mr C. wrote the Account of Witherspoon above referred to.

† Interesting sketches of these excellent ministers of this place, Dr Snodgrass, and Messrs Geddes and Ranken, will be found in the Christian Instructor for 1830, p. 549, a. d. 1838, p. 801. These sketches were written by Mr Crichton.

of Johnston was erected into a distinct parish. The place of worship in it connected with the Establishment, however, was opened in the year 1794, and perambulated bounds were assigned to the locality, whose inhabitants were placed under the ecclesiastical superintendence of its minister. Those who have successively filled the situation of ministers there, are,

James Weir, ordained 1st June 1797, who resigned in 1801; Matthew Graham, ordained 20th January 1802, who resigned 7th December 1804, having been called to the chapel of Calton, Glasgow; Andrew Harley, admitted 26th April 1804, who died 30th July 1807;* and Alexander Telfer, present minister, ordained 16th December 1807.

Gaelic.—In the same year, the Gaelic Chapel was received into the number of churches in the Paisley presbytery. That place of worship, however, was opened in 1794. Its ministers since the opening of it have been,

William Simpson, settled 1795 or 1796, who resigned 21st June 1802; Walter Blair, admitted 3d June 1803, who died in July 1832; and the present minister, John Campbell, ordained on the 16th April 1833.

North.—Of the places of worship recently built, the North Church was the earliest that was provided with a minister. The first who was elected to the charge was Peter Macmorland. But before his ordination he was chosen minister of the National Scotch Church, London, and ordained by the presbytery of Paisley to that charge on the 2d of April 1835.

Robert Stevenson succeeded him, and was ordained on 17th July, but, being soon after removed to the Middle Church of this town, he was succeeded by the present incumbent, who was ordained on 31st March 1836.

Martyrs, Levern and South.—The first elected incumbents in the other three churches Martyrs, Levern, and the South still continue to officiate in the charges to which they have been severally ordained. The minister of the first was ordained on the 21st of July, the second on the 22d of that month, and the third on the 19th of August, all in the year 1836.

Churches.—The churches are all in a state of good repair. We have already noticed the Abbey. The others are plain substantial buildings, and well fitted up within. The High Church, said to be

* Of this faithful, but short-lived minister, an interesting memoir will be found in the Religious Monitor of October 1808.

the largest in Scotland whose roof is unsupported by pillars, is surmounted by a lofty, as well as a handsome spire, which attracts the eye at a great distance, and the Lovern, which is the smallest of the Paisley churches, is picturesquely situated on the left bank of the river which gives it its name.

Parochial Registers.—As previous to the year 1736, the whole of the district comprehended in this article was included in one parish, there was then only one parochial register kept. From that register, we find the minutes of the kirk-session as far back as November 1699. In the first volume, which brings down the minutes to August 1706, a number of leaves appear to have been torn out. The next volume commences with the minutes of January 1710, and ends in February 1775. A volume appears to have been lost, containing the proceedings of the kirk-session between February 1775 and March 1792. With the exceptions noticed, the minutes are complete, from their commencement in 1699 to the present time.

The registers in the burgh parishes have been regularly kept, from the opening of the different churches, each parish having a distinct register. The sessions of the three endowed parishes in the town, however, meet together on particular occasions, for all matters connected with the poor, when they form what is called the general session. Each of the three kirk-sessions has a clerk of its own, elected by the town council in consequence of special contract; but the clerk of the Abbey session is chosen by the members of the court themselves, which is also the case with the clerks of the sessions of the unendowed churches.

In the Abbey parish the registers of births have been regularly kept from 1676, and proclamation of banns from 1670, to the present day. In the burgh, one register was kept from 1738 till 1781. At that period, when the burgh was divided into three distinct parishes, separate registers were ordered for each, and they have been kept with great accuracy from that date to the present time.

Baptisms and marriages, as well as births and proclamations of banns, are registered.

The early records contain many curious notices of manners, and of the passing events in civil and ecclesiastical history. A few of these are given in the subjoined extracts :—

“ 19th Januar 1604. The presbitrie being informit by their brother, Mr Patrick Hamiltoun, that Robert Aitken and Robert Miller, parochiners of Lochquinnoche, superstitiouslie behaved yameselves be ringing of girdilles ye day of Januare; as also that Hendrie Paisly, Robert Paislay, Rot. Patoun, and James King, in Muirdykes,

after ane profane and godles maner behavit yameselfis in diagyising yameselfis, quhilk is nathing less than abominace in ye eyes of ye lord, as also being informit be thair Brother, Gavan Hamilton, Vicar of Kilbarchan, that James Andro," &c. &c., "usit superstitious playis a little before yuill in the day callit yuilevinning, come throw ye clachane of Kilbarchan, making open proclamacn and giving oppen libertie to all men to tak pastyme for ye space of aucht dayes, as also usit superstitious playis upon the 26 of December, at ye Corsfuird, and gave yameselfis to strolling and drinking. The brithren ordaint all the forsaid persons to be sumond to ye next presbitrie day be thair brither, Mr Patrick Hamiltoun and Gavand Hamiltoun, Vicar at Kilbarchan."

"24 May 1638. The qlk day the brethren thought good that a solemne fast should be kept on Sunday come eight dayes, and intimatioun thereof to be made on Sunday next throughout the whole churches of the presbyterie, for the removeing of the sinnes of the land, especiallie the contempt of the gospell, wch justlie hath provoked God to permit Innovations to creepe in into the church, and that it would please God to save this Kirk of Scotland from all Innovations of religioune, and that peace with the professione of the pnt religioune may with libertie be interteined."

"30 Aug. The qlk day the brethren that were pnt did all solemnlie sware that they were neither dealt with nor suffer themselves to be dealt with to be perverted against the Covenant nec prece, pretio, nec minis."

"11 Aprilis 1639. The qlk day the brethren thought it most expedient and necessarr, that Mr Matthew Brisbane should goe with the Colonell Montgomerie and the companie with him, to Duncce-hill, for their co'fort, be preaching and other exercises of devotion."

"9 Decemb. 1641. The qlk day the brithren were acquainted that the Nynt day of Januar nextocū is appointed to be kept for solemne thanksgiving to God for establisshing peace within the Kingdome of Scotland."

"19 May 1642. The qlk the Moderator, brethren, and remanent members of the presbyterie ordained Mr John Hay and Mr Henrie Calvert to goe to the Erie of Abercorne, and speake to his LoP anent the subscriptiounes of the Covenant, and anent his coming to the Church, and anent the bringing back of his eldest sonne according to the Act of the provincial assembly."

"23 September 1643. Anent a lre of the Estates requireing that the brethren would be pleased everie one to put out a man with other presbyteries with the expeditioun to England. The brethren have declared their willingnes so to doe, but have referred the matter till the provincially assemblee to be kept at Lainrek upon Tuisday next insueing, and after advisemt to give ansr."

"13 June 1644. The brethren ordeine Mr Ninian Campbell to goe to the armie nowe in England, and supplie there as Minister till he were liberat, and that in my Lord Loudounes regiment, and order Mr Jon Hay to writt to his LoP to that effect."

"21 May 1646. The qlk day the ministers at Paislaye, Kilmacolme, and Killel-lane, required powers fra the presbitrie for judiciale tryalle and examina'n of suche personnes as are suspected to have had compliyanse with James Grhame or Alex. McDonald, or receivit protection fra theme, qlk wes granted."

"7th Januar 1647. The qlk day compeirit Andro Semple, tounes-clerk of Renfrew, and grantit he wes at the meetinge of the gentilmen of the shyre at Renfrew qn there wes ane act made for outputeing a trowpe of horse for James Grhame. The presbitrie hes wrnet him apud acta to this day twentie dayes, to give up ane roll of the gentilmen yt were yre."

"27 Decr. 1648. Reported by the Brethren that the Covenant was renewed with solemne fasting and humilla'n on Sabboth last."

"April 12, 1649. Compeared Johne Wallace of Ferguslie, Allane Wallace, his son, Rot. flork, elder, and Rot. Alexr, late baillies of Pasley, who for their accessioun to the late sinfull ingadgment, are referred to the gnall assemblee."

"27 Sept. 1649. Reported by John Sprewle, proveist of Renfrew, that he had apprehendit some women in Renfrew for eminent presumptions of Witchcraft. The prebrie appoynts Mrs Johne Hamiltoun, Alexr. Dunlope, the Lairds of Bishop-toun and Craigends, elders, to confer with the said woemen, and deale to bring them to ane confession."

"October 1649. The prebrie concludet that all the brethren sall this night and the morrowe, deall with the persons apprehendet for witchcraft in Pasley and Renfrew to bring them to confessioun."

"Feby. 5, 1650. The rest of the day and the morrowe to be spent in dealing with the witches now upon pannell, yt they may be brought to repentance."

" May 16, 1650.—The solemn thanksgiving for ye overthrow given by the m-tye of God to James Grabame, appointed to be keiped on Wednesday come eight days, according to ye appointment of ye comission of the gnall assemblie."

" Penult May 1650. Produced the confessions of Janet Wood, in Neilston—the prebrie finding her guiltie of gross sorcerie and witchcraft, they have earnestlie recomendet ye same to ye lords of secret counsell or comittee of estates, for granting ane comission for her tryall and censure."

" Sept. 1650. In respect our armye in ye fuilids against ye sectaries is scattered at Dunbar, and yt ye gentelmen and ministeris of ther westerne shyres are to meet at Kilmarnock, the prebrie appoints Mrs Alexr Dunlope and John Mauld to repaire thither, and to concurr wth them in any good and necessary course for saiftie of the cause and kingdome."

" 10th August 1653. This day, unexpectedlie, Capitane Greene, one of the Inglish armye, with ana partie of souldiers, invadit the presbitrie, and by violence interrupted their sitting, carried them out to ane house in the town, and detained them yr as prisoners, alledging yt all presbries were discharged, and had no power to sitt. Therefter they being dismissed, did again conveyne, and considring the greit distraction of the tym, and the uncertantie of the continuation of yr liberties appointed the ordination of Mr William Thomson to the ministrie at Merns, to be at Merns the morrow, and the day to be observed as ane day of humiliatioun."

" Prijno September 1653. Compeared Capitane John Greene, one of the Inglish officers, who, declaireing that he was come to sitt with the presbrie and attend all their dyets, that he might know what they did in their meetings, did exhibit ane warrand from Collonell Lilburne to that purpose. The prebrie did declaire their greit dissatisfaction yrwith, and yt with their consent he sould not sitt with them, whereupon he did forbear for the tym."

" 25th April 1660. Mr Hugh Peebles reports, that as was appointed he did rebuke before the congregation Loghwinzoch, Alexander Hamilton in Kilbarchan parish, and Kathrine Blair, his wife, for scandalous conversing, eating, and drinking wt the Lord Sempell and the rest of his Popish family now excommunicat, particularly at their superstitious observance of Yool, also Giles Sempell for the same fault, and for dauncing with them at the same occasion; item James Allason, John Gillis, Ninian Tarbert, for profaning the Lord's day in the house of Castle-Sempill, at their superstitious observing of Yool tyde."

" August 18, 1664. Robert Finny, parochiner in Pasley, being sumoned for his abuse upon his marriage day, by bringing a bagpipe thorow the toune of Pasley, with many horse, playing along to the scandal of the people, contrary to orders made formerly in this place against such abuses, and is appointed to be rebuked publicly before the congregation, and to pay six pounds Scots of fine for his fault."

" Decr. 20, 1666.—Anent those within the presbytric who were in arms in the late rebellious insurrection, the brethren report, that none to their knowledge within the presbytric were actually joyned with their body who were in arms, only the young goodman of Caldwell, in the parish of Neilston, was with the laird of Caldwell in arms going to these rebels, as also William Porterfield of Quarreltown, in the parish of Pasley, now vacant, also Alexr. Porterfield, the said William his brother in the parish of Kilphellan, now vacant also, and their names now already known and published in the printed papers. Two also now given up as suspected persons, who had fled their houses, when searched for by the soldiers, in the parish of Eastwood, Gavin Philisill in Pollocktoun, and Archibald Chisne, who also are already made known to his Majestie's forces, who are endeavouring to apprehend them."

" Jany. 12, 1681.—The said day the Acts of Synod vere read, and the brethren interrogat as to their observing thereof, all of them reports, that they say the Lord's prayer, and either sings or says the doxologie. And they promise that so soon as the country shall in any measure settle cheerfully, to go about obedience to the act of the administration of the Lord's Supper."

" Dec. 21, 1681.—The Moderator produces ane order, pticularlie directed to him from the Archb., requiring him, in presence of the remanent brethren, to administer the oath called the Test to all schoolmasters, doctors, and chaplains within the bounds of the presbytric, and to report his diligence hereanent, betwixt and the first of Januarie 1682."

" Feb. 7, 1683.—This day ye Moderator and brethren, conforme to ane act of synod gave into Bayly Paterson in Renfrew, ye shiref deputes substitute, ye following list of disorderly schoolmasters within ye bounds, who have not taken the test, viz. James Cowie in Kilbarchan, Peter Pew in Nishtoun, Mr Wm Reid in Lochnoch,

John Richmond in Greenock, Thomas Wat in Caradyoke, John Semple in Houstoun, Mungo Mitchell in Innerkip, which list ye said Bailie has promised to give into the shiref depute, for officiating contrary to law.

"Also Mr Gadderer giving in a list of some obstinat persons wtin his parioch who refused to join wt him as elders in discipline. The Moderator and brethren do likewise give in ye sd list to Bayly Paterson, who hes promised to give it up to the shiref depute."

"March 24th 1697. The Presb. considering the great rage of Satan in this corner of the land, and particularly the continued trouble of Bargarren's daur, which is a great evidence of the Lord's displeasure being provoked by the sins of the land, (exprast as the causes of our former publike fasts) so to let Satan loose amongst us, Therefore the presb. judges it very necessary to set apart a day of solemne humiliacoe and fasting, that we may humble ourselves under God's hand, and wrestle with God in prayer, that he may restrain Satan's rage and relieve that poor afflicted dam-sill and that family from their present distress, and that the Lord would break in upon the hearts of these poor obdured that are Indicted for witchcraft, that they may freely confess to the Glory of God and the rescuing of their own souls out of the hands of Satan, and that the Lord would conduct and clear their way that are to lie upon yr tryell, In order to the giving of Satan's Kingdom ane effectuell stroak. Therefor the presb. appoints Thursday come eight days to be religiously and solemnly observed upon the accounts fors'd, in all the congregations within their bounds, and the same to be intimate the Sabbath preceding.

"The presb. also appoints the whole members to deal with those who are indited, as they shall have occasion, in order unto their being brought to a confession."

"Aprile 14, 1697.—The meeting considering this day that the revising of the narrative of Christine Shaw's trouble was recommended unto them by the synod, therefore they appoint Mr Turner to cause transcribe four copies, and send one to principal Dunlop, and Mr Ja. Brown, another to Mr Ballantine, another to Mr Wyllie, and another to Mr Wilson, allowing them to advise with any of the brethren of yr respective presbitrys in the revising yrof, appointing them, ere they leave this place, to meet and appoint the time and place of their next meeting, that they may compare their animadversions, and put the qll relations in a suitable dress."

"May 19, 1697.—Sed. The members of the presb. with the rest of the brethren that were in town.

"After prayer, Mrs M^cDowall, Da Brown, Ja Stirling are appointed, as frequently as possibly they can, to converse with the seven persons that are condemned to die for witchcraft."

"Mr Pa. Sympson and Mr Da Brown are appointed to have each of them a Lecture in the tolbutth to those that are condemned upon June 9, the day preceding their Execution."

"At Paisley, June 9, 1697. Mr Sympson preacht this day in the tolbutth to the condemned persons, on 2 Tim. 2. 25, 26, and also Mr Brown on 1 Tim. 1, 16, according to appointment."

"The presb. did appoint the whole members to spend sometime this night with the condemned persons who are to dy to-morrow, and did allot to each one or two of the Brethren one of the sentenced persons, to be dealt with by them, and waited upon to the fire."

"January 11th 1699. The Presb. appoints their Commissioners to the Assembly to plead that this presbytery be exeem'd from supplying the North at this time, upon the account of the sad condition of the Country through diabolicall molestations, &c."

From the minutes, it appears that the Presbytery took a very strong interest in the question of the Union of the Kingdoms in 1707, appointing a Committee of their number to wait on the proceedings of the Parliament and Commissioners at Edinburgh, for the purpose of stopping what was then considered a dangerous and degrading proposal. The tumults of the times are matter of history with which we have nothing to do; but we may remark, that the Presbytery of Paisley did, in this instance, only echo the universal feeling of the more decided part of the Presbyterian body, that the Union would prove highly prejudicial to the Church, by lessening her influence with the legialature, and by merging her interests in those of a legislative body, in which Episcopacy could not fail to have an immense preponderance.

Parochial Missions.—About ten years ago there was a town mission established in Paisley, which employed two agents. This

society was dissolved about five years ago, when an Association was formed chiefly of members of the Established Church. That Association has been able to employ three licentiates of the church as parish missionaries, who labour in some of the most populous places of the town and Abbey parishes. They are appointed by the session of the parish in which they labour, and under whose superintendence they are considered as particularly placed. The funds for their support are raised by subscription, and by collections on Sabbath evenings, when the ministers of these parishes take, each his turn of preaching in the High Church.

Sabbath Schools.—Besides the parish missionary Association, there are in Paisley two Sabbath school societies, one supported by members of the Established church, and the other chiefly by persons connected with the different denominations of evangelical Dissenters. The original Sabbath School Society, in this place, was established in the year 1796; and for nearly thirty years was supported by individuals of all denominations, who were disposed to give it their countenance. But in the year 1833 it was found that the members of the Established and dissenting churches, from causes arising out of the Establishment controversy, could no longer co-operate with that harmony, which had hitherto existed among them; in consequence of which a separation took place, which gave rise to the two distinct Associations now mentioned. Still, however this separation, we ought to remark, has decidedly increased the number attending Sabbath schools in Paisley. There were last year not less than 4198 in attendance on these schools, being about 2000 more than are found on the list of the Society previous to the separation. The schools of both Societies are conducted on the same principle, and use the same books. Most of the Sabbath schools have juvenile religious libraries attached to them. The system of local arrangement is adopted as far as practicable, and a vigilant system of visitation is maintained.

Ministers' Classes.—Most of the clergymen, both Established and dissenting, have long been in the habit of instructing weekly classes of young men and young women of their congregations and parishes, in the principles of the gospel, by way of free and familiar catechising on the Scriptures or approved catechisms. The numbers in these classes vary from about 20 to 150. The greatest benefit has been found to result from these interesting departments of pastoral duty.

Education.—In these parishes, there has hitherto been a great

want of the means of education, although of late, attempts have been making for the purpose of remedying this evil. The state of education appears, from a report of the presbytery given in to the General Assembly, in May 1834. According to that report, there were then in the Abbey parish 32 schools, attended by 2318 scholars, including those who attended in the evening, making in a population of 26,177, only about one in 11.28, or nearly 9 per cent. under education. In the town parishes, there were 33 schools, and 2458 scholars, making in a population of 31,460, only about one in 12.80, or about 7.81 per cent. receiving instruction. How very different is this from what it ought to be ! for in order to exhibit a parish fully enjoying and improving the means of education, there ought to be a fifth or a sixth part of its inhabitants receiving instruction, and this we find to be the case, in some of the well educated parishes in Scotland.

Of these 32 schools in the Abbey parish, not one is parochial. One of the teachers has an annuity of about L. 10 or L. 12, being the interest of a sum of L. 240, left by William Maxwell, Esq. of Bredieland, as a small endowment for the improvement of education in the parish. Four of them are furnished with school-rooms, built by subscription, and kept in repair by a committee of subscribers. All the other teachers are wholly unendowed.

The 33 schools in the town of Paisley include those called the town schools, whose teachers are appointed by the council, and over whom that body exercises a particular superintendence. The first of these is the grammar-school, in which the Latin and Greek languages are taught, and from which, for many years past, some of the most distinguished classical scholars have been sent to the neighbouring University of Glasgow. Had all the funds originally destined for the support of this school been retained, the rector would, at this day, have been provided with an ample endowment. For we find, that, in the year 1576-7, seven roods of land, with the revenues and endowments of the altars and chaplaineries in the church of Paisley, that is, a chapel formerly in the town of Paisley, dedicated to St Rock, were bestowed on the magistrates and community of Paisley, for the erection of a grammar-school.* These endowments, however, through the lapse of time, have, in a great measure, been lost sight of; and the income of the teach-

* *Histor. Descrip. of Abbey*, p. 86.

er, at this day, consists of merely a school-house, dwelling-house, and about L. 17 per annum, with the wages of the scholars. *

There are other three schools which may be called *town schools*, two in which the English language is taught, and one in which writing, arithmetic, and practical mathematics are the branches of instruction. The teacher of each of these schools is furnished with a school-room; one of the English teachers has in addition a dwelling-house, and the other, as also the commercial teacher, a salary of L. 8, 6s. 8d. per annum, from the funds of the town.

The only other teacher within the burgh who, when the report was given in, had any thing like an endowment, was the one in Seed-hill, who, in addition to a school-room and dwelling-house, enjoyed, as he still enjoys, an annuity of L. 5, left for the purpose of education about fifty years ago, by a person of the name of Park.

Such was the state of education in Paisley within these two years. But it is refreshing to think, that active exertions have been set on foot, for the purpose of remedying the evil of so great a want of education as then existed among us: and, from the liberality of the friends of education, there is great reason to hope, that these exertions will, ere long, be crowned with success. The heritors of the Abbey parish have resolved to assess themselves, in the legal sum of three chalders, for the support of three parochial teachers, each of whom to be localled in one of the three districts of the parish, viz. one in the east, one in the west, and one in the central or middle district. A school has also been recently erected in the New Town, from funds left for this purpose, by the late Mr and Mrs Corse of Greenlaw. From all these sources, it is expected that a great addition will be made to the means of education, and, from the additional encouragement to teachers, an improvement in its quality.

To the parishes within the burgh of Paisley, a grant from Government of L. 700, for the purpose of building schools, was lately obtained, which has been so increased, by the liberality of the inhabitants, as to have afforded them the means of erecting three new school-rooms, and of increasing the accommodation of an existing one. The general session, who had previously built a school-house by means of funds at their disposal, have, along with a certain number of subscribers, the superintendence of these schools, and they have guaranteed to each teacher a salary of L. 15 per an-

* When the school is well attended, the teacher possesses a very competent income.

num, which enables him to teach at a reduced rate of wages, thus bringing the means of education within reach of a class of our townsmen who could not have otherwise procured this blessing to their offspring. The rate of wages per quarter in these sessional schools is 2s., and they are at present attended by nearly 700 pupils.

In the New Town, a commodious infant school, with dwelling-house for the teacher, has been lately erected by public subscription. The ground was gifted by James Kibble of Greenlaw, Esq. along with a handsome subscription, in aid of the building. It was opened in July 1835, and the average number of scholars that have been since attending it is about 80. The ministers of the town as well as of the Abbey parish are trustees.

In the town there is one charity school, founded by Mrs Margaret Hutchison, and additionally endowed by a donation of L. 500 from the late Walter Carswell, Esq. A commodious school-house, capable of holding 250 pupils, has been erected; and there are always under tuition from 200 to 250 young persons.

The inhabitants of Paisley having thus exerted themselves to increase and improve the means of education, especially among the poor and working-classes of the community, have also begun to turn their attention to the introduction of an improved system of education, for the benefit of those whose circumstances enable them to give to their children the higher branches of instruction. With this view, an Association has lately been formed, for the erection of a seminary to be called "The Paisley Academy," in which, French, Italian, and German, and other modern languages shall be taught, with the principles of mathematics, mechanics, and different branches of natural history and philosophy. It is expected, that, if the plan succeed, the Paisley Academy will have associated with it a regular "school of arts," so as to furnish to the inhabitants of Paisley and its neighbourhood, the means of completing the education of those of their children not intended for one of the learned professions, without the necessity of sending them to a distance.

Theological Halls.—Paisley is the seat of not less than two seminaries for theological education; the one connected with the Reformed Presbyterian Synod, and under the charge of the Rev. Andrew Symington, D. D.; the other connected with the Relief Synod, and under the charge of the Rev. James Thomson, D. D.

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These gentlemen are also ministers of congregations respectively in the town, and during the hall term (which is in the months of August and September) their pulpits are supplied by ministers specially appointed by the synods. The number of students at both of these institutions may average 40. Each hall has attached to it an extensive collection of theological books.

Religious Societies.—Paisley was for twenty years the seat of very flourishing Bible Society, under the name of “The Paisley and East Renfrewshire Bible Society;” which, besides supplying home wants, sent annually many hundred pounds to the British and Foreign Bible Society, and other societies of the same kind. Of late it has existed under the form of four female Bible associations, which have done much good by distributing Bibles, purchased, lent, or gifted to the poor of the place; and which have also distributed of their charity to the Highlands, colonies, and foreign parts. The missionary enterprise was early befriended in this place, and several associations in behalf of the London, Scottish, Baptist, and Continental Societies, have from time to time lent their aid to the good cause. Of late, various circumstances have directed the attention of the Christian public more immediately to the supply of spiritual wants at home; but the visits of the representatives of these and other institutions of the same nature are still hailed with pleasure, and liberal collections and subscriptions, from time to time, made in their behalf by all denominations.

IV.—POPULATION.

State of the Population.—The population of the Abbey and town parishes may be distinctly traced from the year 1695; and, according to the statements given at different periods, it is as follows:

Year.	Abbey.		Town.		Total in Abbey & Town.
	Families.	Souls.	Families.	Souls.	
1695,	435			2200	
1755,		2509		4290	6799
1781,	1536			11,100	

In the above table we have not distinguished the males from the females, as there is no record of the number of each, at the different periods referred to. Besides, in the Abbey parish, the number of souls is mentioned only at one of the periods; at the other two, we have only the number of families in the parish.

From the year 1791, we are able to give the statement of the population with more accuracy, distinguishing between the males and females in each year in which the census was taken.

Year.	Abbey parish.			Total.	Town of Paisley.			Total in Ab. & Tn.	
	Fam.	Males.	Fem.		Fam.	Males.	Fem.		
1791,	2255	5259	5538	10792	3232	6577	7223	13800	24592
1801,	2991	6592	7561	14153	3945	7821	9205	17026	31179
1811,	3612	7614	9171	16785	4446	8848	11094	19937	36722
1821,	4210	9609	10966	20575	5730	12138	14295	26428	47003
1831,	5306	12062	13944	26006	7002	14460	17000	31460	57466

According to the census of 1831, the whole population amounts to - 57,466
 Of this number, the burgh contains - 31,460
 The New Town and suburbs in Abbey parish, - 14,739
 Making the whole within the bounds of police of the town and suburbs of
 Paisley, - 46,199

The remaining portion of the population in the Abbey parish may be thus stated, viz.

In the village or town of Johnston,	-	-	-	5617
Elderslie,	-	-	-	1099
villages of Thorn and Quarrelton,	-	-	-	847
Nitshill, Hurler, and Dovecothall,	-	-	-	1000
country districts,	-	-	-	2704

Since the above census was taken, there has been an increase in both the Abbey and town of Paisley. The census taken about two years ago, and which we have adopted under the ecclesiastical head, makes the population of the Abbey 26,177, and of the Town 31,703,—of the whole 57,880. But since that period the increase, we have reason to believe, has been very rapid, as a number of additional houses have been built, both in the town and suburbs of Paisley, and in the village of Johnston and its neighbourhood. At present the public works in Paisley are on the increase, and there is a large mill about to be erected at Johnston, which, it is said, will give employment to not fewer than 200 individuals, so that when we take into consideration, not only the persons who will be actually employed at all these works, but also their families, and the victual-dealers and clothiers required to provide the necessaries of life to this additional population, we may anticipate an increase in the number of the inhabitants, on a scale equal to, if not greater than any we have yet had occasion to record.

The average number in each family in the Abbey parish is 4.7; in the town 4.4; in both taken together 4.6. The number in each family of the town and village population, however, is very different from that of the country. Thus, of the western part of the parish, including Johnston and Elderslie, the number of families in the villages is 1593, and the population 7434, making the average number in each family 4.6; whereas the number of families in the country locality of that quarter is 53, and the population 370, giving an average of 7, or nearly so, to

a family. This arises from the number of servants kept by those employed in agriculture. The proportion to each family, in another district of the parish, is even greater than this, and is to be ascribed to the bleachfields in that locality, in which many Highland girls are employed, who lodge together in large apartments provided by their masters, and each of these dwelling-places is reckoned the abode of a single family.

The yearly average of births recorded for the last seven years may be stated as follows :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Abbey parish,	225	206	431
Low do.	34	33	67
High do.	75	64	139
Middle do.	52	53	105
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
In all the parishes,	386	356	742

But this is no satisfactory proof of the number of births in the different parishes, many neglecting to register.

Of 3022, the total number of births recorded in the Abbey parish, for the last seven years, it appears that 23 are twins, that is, one in every 66 children registered is at an average a twin.

Of marriages, the following may be given, as the yearly average for the last seven years, or rather of proclamations for marriage, for the marriage is not always celebrated in the parish in which the parties are proclaimed.

In the Abbey parish,	286
Low do.	77
High do.	142
Middle do.	110
	<hr/>
In all the parishes,	615

The average of deaths cannot be ascertained for the last seven years, as no regular register of them has been kept during the whole of that time. We have, however, been favoured with an excellent mortality bill, drawn up by Dr M'Kinlay of this town, for the year ending 31st December 1834, from which it appears, that during that year there died in the Abbey parish and burgh parishes, in all 1824.

In the Abbey parish, the population may be thus divided.

Population under 15 years of age,	-	-	10391
betwixt 15 and 30,	-	-	7818
30 and 50,	-	-	5419
50 and 70,	-	-	2007
upwards of 70,	-	-	491
			<hr/>
			26006

In this parish, the number of unmarried men, bachelors and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, amounts to 274, and of unmarried women, upwards of 45, to 507. The deaf, dumb, and insane, are 50 in number.

These particulars in the burgh parishes have not been ascertained, but they may be regarded as existing in a similar proportion when taken in connection with the population.

We may add, that in proportion to the population, Paisley can show as many instances of longevity as most places throughout Scotland. No doubt our people who are employed in mining and mechanical operations are liable to many accidents, which tend to shorten human life, and in some of our manufactories the employment is by no means of the most healthful description. Within these few years, however, we attended the funeral of a man* who died at Elderslie, in the 116th year of his age; an individual lately died at Thorn, aged 100 years; and on the 20th of August last, there was present on a convivial occasion, a woman, in her 94th year, of the name of Jean, who had the pleasure of seeing, on that occasion, her daughter Jean, her grand-daughter Jean, and great-grand-daughter Jean, all named after each other in succession. Within these few weeks we know of four individuals in the town who have died at the venerable age of 90 and upwards.

Land-owners.—Of landed proprietors, not a great number are resident. But in addition to those that reside, a considerable number of gentlemen who have realized, or who are realizing, an independent fortune, live either in the burgh, or in the country part of the Abbey parish.

General Habits of the People.—There is nothing peculiar in the language spoken by the inhabitants of Paisley. Like that of other parts of the country, it may be said to have its provincialisms; but, upon the whole, these are less marked than they once were, and within the last forty years, the language of the natives may be said to be much improved.

The custom is still too prevalent of making bargains over a glass, as it is called, or in a public-house, and it is much to be regretted that the practice of dram-drinking is so very common as it is. The ice in winter, and the bowling green in summer, the race-course, and the theatre, are favourite places of resort with many of the inhabitants.

* Hugh Shaw, born in Sorbie, served under the Duke of Cumberland in 1745-6.

The young, on public days, give evidence of their taste for dress. On ordinary days, the girls employed in factories, or in sewing manufactured goods, generally wear a large cloak or mantle of cloth or of tartan with a hood, which may be noticed as the only peculiarity in the dress of our town.

When trade is flourishing, the people, on the whole, enjoy, in a considerable degree, domestic comfort: but there are so many vicissitudes in the trade of the place, and reverses are so frequent, that after one unfavourable period, numbers have scarcely risen above their difficulties, when they are again obliged to encounter fresh ones. The circumstances of those in the country part of the parish are, in general, not so fluctuating. At the same time, of late years, the farmers have, from their high rents, and the low prices of grain, scarcely made that progress with the manufacturers, in improving their circumstances, which, from their industry, we might naturally have been led to expect.

About forty years ago, our people were reckoned among the most intelligent, moral and religious inhabitants of Scotland: and still a great many may be so considered. But various circumstances having concurred in causing a deterioration in these respects, particularly since the era of the French revolution; and our population having greatly outstripped the means of moral and religious education, many have been left to grow up in ignorance of the first principles of Christianity; and too many, alas! have had their minds sadly imbued with prejudices against its sacred truths and institutions.

Distinguished Men.—Of natives or inhabitants of Paisley, many have distinguished themselves in the different walks of life. Some of these we have already noticed, and others will fall to be mentioned in the sequel of this account. Others, perhaps, not less distinguished, but whose modesty prevented them from taking an active share in the more public scenes of life, now live only in the grateful recollection of their own townsmen, while we cannot but believe, that many of our greatest benefactors are no longer remembered.

Among persons of eminence, we may notice the following: Andrew Knox, a relation of the illustrious Reformer, minister of Paisley, and afterwards Bishop of Raphoe; Patrick Adamson, afterwards Archbishop of St Andrews; Thomas Smeton, afterwards Principal of the College of Glasgow; Robert Boyd of Trochrig,

who had been successively Principal of the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and then *promoted* to be minister of Paisley; Alexander Dunlop, father of the Principal; Robert Millar, author of the "History of the Propagation of Christianity," and other works of merit; John Witherspoon, afterwards President of the College of New Jersey, and one of the best divines of the Scottish Church; Robert Findlay, the late eminently learned and pious Professor of Theology in Glasgow College; Robert Tannahill, the author of many beautiful Songs; Alexander Wilson, the celebrated American Ornithologist; Dr Robert Watt, author of the "Bibliotheca Britannica;" John Henning, the distinguished modellist; and William Motherwell, whose genius and highly gifted poetical talents have been lately consigned to an early grave. Of eminent natives still alive, we notice John Wilson, the distinguished Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh; and Dr John Thomson, one of the ornaments of the Edinburgh Medical School. The authors of the former Statistical Account of this parish, Dr Boog and Dr Snodgrass, deserve a place in any catalogue of distinguished men; and it is worthy of notice, that John Wilson, Esq. of Thornley, who rendered such eminent service in drawing up the articles on Agriculture and Geology in that account, still survives, in the enjoyment of excellent health, at a venerable age.

V.—INDUSTRY.

The following table exhibits a view of the amount, employments, &c. of our busy population in the year 1831.

POPULATION CENSUS OF PAISLEY IN 1831;
with a Summary of its Population at each period of Ten Years, from 1801 to 1831.

PARISHES.	HOUSES AND FAMILIES.				OCCUPATIONS OF FAMILIES.				PERSONS, INCLUDING CHILDREN.			MALES EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE.						Total males of 20 years old and upwards.		Occupiers of land employing labourers.		Do. not employed in agriculture.		Labourers employed in agriculture.		Males employed in manufacture.		Males employed in retail trade, &c.		Wholesale merchants, &c.		Labourers not agricultural.		All other males, &c.		TOTAL POPULATION BY THIS AND THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT ENUMERATIONS.			
	Inhabited houses.	By how many families occupied.	Houses building.	Other houses uninhabited.	Families employed in agriculture.	Families chiefly employed in trade, manufacture, &c.	All other families not in the two preceding classes.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Occupiers of land employing labourers.	Do. not employed in agriculture.	Labourers employed in agriculture.	Males employed in manufacture.	Males employed in retail trade, &c.	Wholesale merchants, &c.	Labourers not agricultural.	All other males, &c.	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.									
Abbey Parish	1870	5306	3	171	157	4873	276	12062	18944	28006	76	41	162	2452	1258	120	801	265	14158	16785	20375	28006	14158	16785	20375	28006	14158	16785	20375	28006									
High Church	808	8267	0	156	0	3109	158	6830	7791	14621	..	..	..	2012	640	63	199	106	17026	19937	12442	14621	17026	19937	12442	14621	17026	19937	12442	14621						
Middle Church	565	2167	1	114	12	2017	188	4426	5459	9884	..	..	..	4	763	71	255	123	17026	19937	12442	14621	17026	19937	12442	14621	17026	19937	12442	14621						
Low Church	458	1568	1	86	5	1487	76	3204	3751	6955	..	..	..	2	799	35	90	69	17026	19937	12442	14621	17026	19937	12442	14621	17026	19937	12442	14621						
	3696	12308	5	527	174	11486	648	26522	30944	57466	78	54	168	6026	3056	289	1345	563	31179	36722	47008	57466	31179	36722	47008	57466	31179	36722	47008	57466									

Parish Rental.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 11,944, 13s. 4d. Scots, the real rent L. 22,415, 17s. 8d. Sterling, divided among ninety-five landed proprietors, of whom seventeen possess each L. 100 Scots or upwards of annual valuation. We here sub-join a list of the land-owners possessed each of the yearly income, from his land, of L. 50 or upwards.

The Most Noble the Marquis of Abercorn; The Right Honourable George Earl of Glasgow; The Right Honourable Lord Blantyre; The Right Honourable Lord Douglas; Sir Michael Shaw Stewart of Greenock and Blackhall, Bart.; Sir John Maxwell of Polloc, Bart.; Alexander Speirs, Esq. of Elderslie; Ludovic Houston, Esq. of Johnston; Robert Fulton, Esq. of Hartfield; The British Linen Banking Company; The Town of Paisley; Misses Dunlop of Househill, and Mrs Campbell; James Kibble, Esq. of Whiteford; Andrew Buchanan, Esq. of Hillington; William Maxwell, Esq. of Brediland; William Barr, Esq. of Ferguslie; John Wilson, Esq. of Thornley; James Gerrard, Esq. of Whitehaugh; Charles James Fox Orr, Esq. of Thornley Park; Robert Smith, Esq. of Barshaw; H. B. Stains, Esq. of Braehead; Andrew Brown, Esq. of Auchentorlie; William Sim, Esq. of Gallowhill; Adam Hamilton, Esq. of Lounsdale; The Trustees of the late John Shedden, Esq. of Woodside; The Heirs of the late William King, Esq. of Lonend; Robert Dalgleish, Esq. merchant, Glasgow; J. P. Storrie, Esq. of Riccarsbarr; Miss Christie, Paisley; Trustees of the late Boyd Alexander, Esq.; Heirs of the late Robert Barclay, Esq. of Glen; Robert Orr, Esq. of Lylesland; The Heirs of the late William Peock, Esq. of Meiklerigg; James Sharp, Esq. merchant, Glasgow; Thomas Robertson, Esq. of Thornleymoor; John Wilson, Esq. of Ferguslie; The Heirs of the late Hugh Ferguson, Esq. writer, Glasgow; The Heirs of the late John Bell, Esq. Woodside; Faculty of Procurators, Paisley; Miss Braid, Carriagehill.

Agriculture.—In the last Statistical Account, we find the following remarks. “The husbandry of this parish, as of all the west of Scotland, was, about the middle of this century (the 18th,) in a most unprosperous state. The indigent circumstances of the farmers, their indolent habits, the want of roads, of wheel-carriages, and proper implements of husbandry, all conspired to obstruct the improvement of the soil. Till about 1770, lime, coal, grain, &c. were generally conveyed on horseback. The old servitudes of carriages, kain, labour, thirlage, &c. still existed, with many prac-

tices discouraging to the farmer, and strongly marking the languid state of agriculture. The spirit of improvement, however, which, about that time, appeared in Scotland, reached Renfrewshire; and a very favourable change has now taken place. The introduction of artificial grasses, and the culture of potatoes, have produced a more diligent and accurate husbandry, and banished the pernicious distinction of croft and outfield.* Before 1766, there was scarce any hay sown—"potatoes about forty or fifty years ago were brought in boats from Kintyre to Paisley market. About thirty years ago, farmers began pretty generally to cultivate them in the field." The writer proceeds to state the mode of farming which in his day (1791) was practised; and the plans and improvements which had commenced previous to that period, have since been prosecuted, so that, at the present day, this parish may be regarded as inferior to none in the west of Scotland, in point of cultivation. The parish contains in all about 16,160 acres, which may be divided as follows.

The number of acres arable,	-	-	-	12,700
uncultivated,	-	-	-	700
in mosses, sites of houses, roads, waters, &c.	-	-	-	1,760
in woods and plantations,	-	-	-	1,000

The whole may be spoken of under two divisions, the upper or hilly, and the lower or gently rising, the soil of the former being free, light, and on a dry bottom, or whinstone, or what is called rotten rock, which readily absorbs water; that of the latter being what we described, under Topographical appearances, as thin, and generally resting on a till bottom, the till being a mixture of stone and heavy clay, hard and retentive of moisture.

Rents.—The average rent of land in the upper division may be stated at L. 1 per imperial acre; and that of the lower at L. 1, 15s. but there are some farms, particularly in the neighbourhood of the town, which bring from L. 3 to L. 4 per acre. Of late, grain rents have to a considerable extent been adopted.

The average annual expense of grazing a cow may be stated at L. 4; and that of a sheep at 12s. But very few sheep are reared in this parish.

Wages.—The rate of wages for a first rate ploughman, found in bed and board, is reckoned at L. 20 per annum; and that of a first

* "The distinction between croft and outfield prevailed very generally in the old and imperfect husbandry of Scotland. The croft, consisting of a few acres nearest the farm house, was perpetually in crop, and received the whole manure of the farm. The outfield was the open pasture land, which was occasionally ploughed in patches for oats till they were exhausted, and then left to rest."

rate female servant, found in the same, at L. 9 per annum. Both male and female servants of inferior qualifications, are paid according to their ability, or the agreement made with their employers. A common labourer, with provisions, may be procured in winter for 1s. 6d., and in summer for 2s. per day. Artisans are employed at 3s. or 4s. each per day.

The *husbandry* pursued by the farmers is of the most approved description. The soil, in general, although not originally of the most fertile quality, has become very productive by cultivation; many inducements are held out to husbandmen, by the prospect of a ready market, for every kind of crop, as well as by the facility of procuring manure from the neighbouring towns and villages. Tile-draining has of late been carried to a considerable extent, particularly on the estates of the Marquis of Abercorn; and this improvement may, in several places, be profitably carried to a still greater extent than it has yet been, the nature of the soil requiring it; and we doubt not a little more encouragement from the landlords, of which the parish affords more than one example, would induce the farmers to do so, and this would prove an advantage to both. The lands are all well enclosed; those in the upper district, chiefly with stone dikes, those in the lower with hedges. The farm-houses and offices, especially the recently built ones, are for the most part covered with slates, while they are both substantial and commodious. The average extent of each farm is about 100 acres, and the duration of leases from ten to nineteen years. There is not much large or old timber in the parish; the greater part is found on the Hawkhead estate, which also contains any copse-wood that grows in the parish. Any other wood we meet with is generally raised around gentlemen's houses, and is under good management.

Live-Stock.—The horses reared in this neighbourhood are generally of the Clydesdale breed, which is considered very superior. These horses are perhaps the most vigorous of any in Great Britain, and our farmers keep them in excellent condition, finding, doubtless, that they repay the care bestowed on them. There are also a few of what are called half-bred horses raised in the parish, and on one estate in it, a good many racers and hunters, chiefly for the use of the proprietor.

The cattle are of the Ayrshire kind, to which a good deal of attention has been paid, particularly in the high district of the pa-

rish, encouragement being held out to this, by the premiums annually given by the Agricultural Society of Paisley. The average value of a good stock of cows may be reckoned at the rate of L. 11 each, some superior ones being valued as high as L. 20 each. The average quantity of milk yielded by a cow of the breed referred to is about 1200 Scotch pints, or 600 gallons a year, which will produce about 130 pounds of butter, the value of which, with that of the milk was, for the last year, about L. 11. To this is to be added the sum of about L. 3 for manure, which will make the annual produce of each cow about L. 14 Sterling.

The few sheep reared in the parish are chiefly of the Leicestershire species.

As the farms in the Abbey parish are situated in the neighbourhood of large towns and populous villages, the dairy produce forms an important item in the returns made. The milk is, in general, converted into butter, and butter-milk, except in those farms in the more immediate neighbourhood of the towns and villages, where the cream only is churned, the skimmed milk being easily disposed of.

Crops.—The usual rotation of crops is as follows: oats out of lea or after hay; potatoes or turnips, with 35 square yards of good farm-yard manure, per imperial acre; wheat, barley, or oats, with clovers and grass seeds, sometimes cut green, but commonly made into hay. The barley or oats are generally allowed a slight dressing, with ash or short dung. These remarks apply chiefly to the lower district of the parish, as the farmers in the higher seldom sow wheat. They generally adopt what is called the four-shift course, sowing the clover and grass seeds along with the barley or oats after the green crop. They then pasture their land for three years, which those in the lower district seldom do. Oats are sown in March or April, barley in April, or as soon after the oats as the weather will permit, and wheat in September or October. Lime is generally applied on the lea, in the high districts, and on potatoe ground in the low. The iron plough is commonly used. The crops are generally got in in September and October; but this year great portions of them, especially in the upper parts of the parish, were in the fields till the month of December.

Produce.—Upon the whole, the gross value of farm produce in the parish, on an average of the last five years, may be stated as follows:—

In the Upper Division.

Oats, 400 acres, yielding 30 imp. bush. per acre, at 2s. 6d. per bush.					L. 1500
Potatoes, 80	7½ tons per acre,	L. 1, 10s. per ton,			900
Turnips, 20	10		15s.		150
Hay, 300	1½	L. 2,			900
Pasture, 900		L. 1,	per acre,		900
Uncultivated, 700, of which one-half might be profitably improved			5s.	do.	175
					<u>L. 4525</u>

In the Lower Division.

Wheat, 1980 acres, yielding 32 imp. bush. per acre at 6s. 2d. per bush.					L. 19536
Oats, 2750	40		2s. 6d.		13750
Beans, 440	28		4s.		2464
Potatoes, 1320	7½ tons,	L. 1 10s. per ton			14850
Turnips, 220	15		15s.		2475
Hay, 1540	2	L. 3			9240
Pasture, 2750		L. 1, 15s. per acre,			4812, 10s.
					<u>L. 67127, 10s.</u>
					<u>L. 71652, 10s.</u>

Prices at different periods.—In 1594, various decrees were passed by the baillies and council, as recorded in the community's records, from which it appears that the price in Scots money of

A boll of oatmeal was L. 4.
 A threave of oat straw 2s. 6d.
 A peck of bear 5s. 6d.
 A day's work of two horses 8s. 6d.
 A ewe sheep 33s. 4d.
 A boll of white oats nine merks and 6s. 8d.
 A boll of black oats L. 4.
 Half a boll of grey corn 33s.

The fee of a servant-maid for half a year 4 merks.
 A boll of malt 12 merks.
 Ploughing an acre of ground L. 3.
 A peck of groats 20s.
 A barked hyde 30s. 8d.
 A fourth part of linseed 6s. 8d.
 A side of mutton 11s.
 Five quarters "fine violet London claith" L. 10, 16s. 8d.

In 1597, the boll of malt had risen to twenty merks, when a pound and quarter of butter are marked in the council minutes as sold for 4s. 2d. Scots. In 1609, the price of three pecks of oatmeal is rated in the same minutes at 20s. Scots.

The fair prices of Renfrewshire are annually struck at Paisley about the beginning of March. The following are the prices Sterling for the seven years previous to 1836.

	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.
Best wheat, im. qr.	55s. 0d.	56s. 11d.	54s. 2½d.	52s. 7d.	47s. 6½d.	40s. 9½d.	37s. 0½
Medium average	53 10	55 5½	53 6½	51 4½	46 10½	39 11	36 5½
Best barley,	35 2	33 4½	32 8	33 4½	29 6	28 3½	28 3
Medium average	34 6	32 3½	32 3½	33 1	29 2	26 8½	26 11½
Best bear	32 3	27 4½	29 11	31 7½	28 4½	25 2	23 8½
Medium average	...	26 4½	29 7	31 0	...	24 6½	...
Best oats	23 1½	27 0½	22 7½	20 4	18 6	22 6½	20 10½
Medium average	20 6	26 4½	21 8½	18 11½	18 5½	19 10½	20 2
Best beans & pease	34 0	...	36 6	32 1½	33 0	32 11½	34 0
Medium average	...	...	35 9½	31 3	...	31 7½	...
Best oatmeal 140lb.	17 0	29 7½	16 7½	14 7½	14 9½	15 10½	16 5½
Medium do.	16 11½	20 5	...	14 7	14 9½	...	14 4½

Price of Provisions at present :

Oatmeal 2s. 6d. per stone.	Salt butter 8d. to 1s. per lb.
Barley flour 1s. 8d. do.	Fresh do. 1s. 1d. do.
Pease meal 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d.	Beef 4d. to 7d. do.
Quartern loaf 9d.	Mutton 5d. to 7d. do.
New cheese 7d. per lb.	Veal 8d. to 7d. do.
Old do. 7d. to 8d.	Lamb 5d. to 8d. do.
Eggs per dozen 9d. to 11d.	Potatoes 5d. to 5½d. per stone.

Servitudes.—The ancient servitudes, once so oppressive and harassing to the agriculturist, are now in a manner unknown in this parish; at least the only one of them which remains is that of thirlage, exacted by the Seed-hill mill, from certain lands thirled to it. The thirlage thus exacted, including all the dues, is about the sixteenth or seventeenth peck.

Renfrewshire Agricultural Society.—This society was established at Paisley in 1819, under the patronage of several gentlemen of extensive landed property, and embracing persons of all varieties of political opinion. The president is Sir John Maxwell, Bart. of Pollock; and among the vice-presidents we observe the names of Mr Campbell of Blythwood, Lord Lieutenant of the county; Mr Houston of Johnston; Mr Napier of Blackstoun, &c. Its exertions have contributed much to the advancement of agricultural science and its practical applications. Its members have an annual show of cattle, when various premiums are distributed; and there is an annual ploughing-match, when various prizes are also awarded. In May 1835, twenty-three prizes, of value from L. 1 to L. 5, were distributed at the cattle-show. Eight prizes were distributed at the ploughing-match in February 1836. In August 1836, there was an extensive cattle-show, when twenty-five prizes were given. This last show was accompanied with a high degree of satisfaction. The number of the cattle on the field, their excellent quality, the fineness of the weather, and the number of spectators, all conspired to give eclat to the proceedings. It was stated by one of the judges, that the show was superior to the one of last year at Ayr, before the Highland Society.

Florist and Horticultural Societies.—The former of these was established in 1782, and has been of eminent service in promoting the extensive and tasteful culture of flowers of all colours and value, by annual exhibitions, competitions for prizes, &c. The second has been more lately established (1832,) but it also promises to be of great advantage in the kindred departments. The operatives of this place have been long distinguished for their taste and ingenuity in the rearing of flowers. Many of them have gar-

dens of their own attached to their houses, and those who have not, find no difficulty in obtaining suitable accommodation in the gardens of their friends, and of gentlemen in the neighbourhood. In many a keenly contested struggle, the pinks, carnations, tulips, dahlias, &c. &c. reared in Paisley, have been honoured with marks of distinction; while the occupation and relaxation attendant on their culture have tended to liberalize the mind, and to promote habits favourable at once to mental and moral improvement. In the *horticultural* department, there has been for several years a keen struggle in the rearing of cauliflowers, cabbages, and vegetables of every description; and this has tended very much to the improvement of gardening, in all the varieties of esculent productions.

Trade and Manufactures.—The trade and manufactures of Paisley may be traced from very small beginnings, but their progress in some periods has been rapid and astonishing. Not long after the union, when a free trade was opened with England, the spirit of manufacture began to shew itself here; and the fabrics which were produced were made upon such just and economical principles, and with so much taste and judgment, that they found a ready market, not only at home, but likewise in the neighbouring kingdom. But the trade of Paisley at that period, owed its chief encouragement to a class of men who were of great benefit to this country, though the occupation has now fallen rather into disrepute; we mean, the pedlars or travelling merchants from the south, many of whom having frequented Paisley as their staple, and having gained a little money by their trade, came to settle there, and bought up large quantities of its manufactures, which they vend- ed among their friends and correspondents in England. Afterwards the merchants of Glasgow found their account in purchasing these goods, and sending them both to the London market and to foreign parts. Such was the state of the trade and manufactures of Paisley, from the period of the union (1707,) till about the year 1760. The different articles of which they consisted during that period, were, at first, coarse checkered linen cloth, and Bengals; afterwards checkered linen handkerchiefs, some of them fine, and beautifully variegated, by the manner in which the different colours were disposed, according to the taste and invention of the manufacturers. * These were succeeded by fabrics of a lighter

* In 1710, Craufurd thus describes the manufactures of Paisley. "That which renders this place considerable, is, its trade of linen and muslin, where there is a great

and more fanciful kind, consisting not only of plain lawns, but likewise of such as were striped or chequered with cotton, and others that were ornamented with a great variety of figures. Towards the end of the above-mentioned period, the making of linen gauze was a considerable branch of trade in Paisley; and before the middle of it, a new species of manufacture of great importance was begun by the inhabitants of the place, and which they continued long to prosecute with peculiar advantage: we mean, the making of white sewing-thread, known to the merchants by the name of *ounce* or *nun's thread*, as distinguished from the different kinds of coloured and white cotton thread, which have been manufactured chiefly at Aberdeen and Dundee. This valuable branch of trade may be said to have been imported into this country by a lady in the neighbourhood of Paisley, who, about the year 1725, found means to procure from Holland the machinery which is necessary for carrying it on, and set the first example of it in her own family. * Such a spirit of enterprise, of ingenuity, and of sober industry, was not lost on the manufacturing genius of the people of Paisley. The business was soon taken up by them. It was carried on to a very considerable extent prior to the middle of last century; and so long as this kind of thread was cultivated in Scotland at all to any extent, it had its principal seat in that place.

About the year 1760, the making of silk gauze was first attempted at Paisley in imitation of that at Spital-fields, London. The success was beyond the most anxious expectations of those who engaged in it. The inventive spirit, and the patient application of the workmen; the cheapness of labour at that time, and the skill and taste of the masters, gave it every advantage for being naturalized here. The consequence was, that nice and curious fabrics were devised; and such a vast variety of elegant and richly orna-

weekly sale in its markets of those sorts of cloth; many of the inhabitants being chiefly employed in that sort of manufactory."

* This lady was Christian Shaw, daughter of John Shaw of Bargarran, afterwards married to the Rev. Mr Millar, minister of Kilmaurs, Ayrshire. Her name is associated with the history of witchcraft in the county of Renfrew. When eleven years of age, she pretended to have been bewitched; a solemn trial of the agents in the infernal process was held, and three men and four women were condemned to death, and executed in the gallows-green of Paisley. See Arnot's Criminal Trials, and the "History of the Witches of Renfrewshire," for a full detail of all those melancholy proceedings. *Bargarran*, where Mrs Millar resided after the death of her husband, and where the machine employed by her and her daughters in the manufactory of linen thread is still preserved, is in the parish of Erskine; and we shall leave it to the writer of the Statistical Account of that parish to detail, as Dr Young in the Old Statistical Account has done, the history of an experiment so interesting and so successful.

mented gauze was issued from the place, as outdid everything of the kind that had formerly appeared. Spitalfields was obliged to relinquish the manufacture. Companies came down from London to carry it on at Paisley, where it prospered and increased, it is believed, beyond any manufacture of which any town in Scotland could boast.* Indeed it not only became the great distinguishing manufacture of that town, but it filled the country round to the distance of twenty miles; and the gentlemen engaged in it had not only warehouses in London and Dublin, but correspondents upon the continent, and shops for vending their commodities in Paris and other large cities and towns. About 1785, the change of fashion, on which this trade must entirely depend, had an unfavourable effect upon it; and many of the principal houses in the place, while they pushed the silk branch as far as they could, entered into the muslin manufacture with their accustomed ardour, yet with a judgment and prudence by which men of business and of capital are ever distinguished from rash and unwary adventurers. The muslin trade soon rose to an unexampled height of prosperity, and its gains both to master and workmen were very encouraging. Of late years comparatively little has been done in this branch; but the houses which are still engaged in it are of the highest respectability, and the fabrics produced, and which are chiefly designed for the London market, are unexampled in point of taste and elegance of execution. The ornamenting of muslins by fine needle-work has lately become a considerable branch of our trade. Such work has long been done here, but never at all to the same extent as now.

It appears from the best calculation that could be made, that in the year 1784, the manufactures of Paisley in silk-gauze, lawn and linen-gauze, and white sewing thread, amounted to the value of L. 579,185, 16s. 6d; and that no fewer than 26,484 persons were employed in carrying them on. In 1790, when the last Statistical Account was compiled, the total yearly value of the manufactures of Paisley of all kinds, was estimated at L. 660,385, 16s. The progress of manufactures up to this period may be judged of by comparing this statement with the fact, that in 1744, there were only 867 looms in all employed, and the whole value of the

* Disputes betwixt the masters and men had arisen at Spitalfields, which led to the famous "Spitalfields' Act" for fixing a minimum of prices. The folly of this, as of every attempt of the kind, was soon proved by its utter ineptness, as a means of preventing misunderstandings and feuds; and the Spitalfields capitalists transferred their capital and trade to Manchester and other places.

linen manufactures amounted only to L. 15,000. From the accounts transmitted annually by the stamp-masters to the Board of Trustees in Edinburgh for the encouragement of Manufactures, it appears that the linen manufacture in Paisley attained its highest point in 1783-4, when the number of yards stamped was within a trifle of two millions, and the number of looms 2000.* About the same period, the silk-gauze trade gave employment to 5000 looms, a very large proportion of which were in the country villages around, and produced L. 350,000 worth of silk goods. The manufacture of ribbons, and of some other silk fabrics, was introduced in 1772, and was for some time carried on to a considerable extent.†

Shawl Manufacture.—The rise of the shawl trade forms an important era in the history of Paisley. Imitations of India shawls had been produced in the city of Norwich, and the town of Stockport, near the close of the 18th century. Much about the same time also, a lady in Edinburgh had attempted something of the kind, but not on such effective principles as the English manufacturers. These imitations were chiefly of soft silk. Some of them were sent to Paisley and submitted to two or three manufacturers. The muslin trade being then good, while shawls, it was considered, would be quite a fancy article, very few adopted this branch, and consequently little progress was made for some time. One manufacturer, however, of considerable ingenuity and great perseverance, embarked in the trade, and was eminently successful; ‡ others followed and with various success. In those days, the erection of a shawl-loom was an expensive concern. The manufacturer had to advance a great proportion of the money required. This, along with the risk of a fancy article, when so much outlay was necessary, deterred many from taking up the trade. By the exertions of several ingenious weavers who had made a little money, conjoined with the well-known intelligence and persevering industry of the operatives whom they engaged for the work, many obstacles were overcome. At length the shawl trade became of more importance than the muslin branch. The working classes were greatly benefited by the change,

* Wilson's Survey of Renfrewshire, p. 241.

† Ibid p. 243-4.

‡ This was Mr James Paterson, Orchard Street. The first inventors or importers of arts, are often in the end unsuccessful, in reaping the gains of their perseverance and industry, and this was the case with Mr P., while J. M. the weaver whom he employed to make the first imitation shawl in Paisley, is at present begging his bread! The family of Mr P. seem to have possessed a native genius for drawing patterns; and several members of it, both in London and Paisley, are still distinguished in that line.

as the price paid for manufactured cotton work had by this time been much reduced. The shawl trade now ramified to a great extent. India imitations were produced in soft silk, in spun silk, and in cotton, and in mixtures of all the three. The same style of raised work was also done for ladies dresses on white grounds with small figured spots. Imitations were also made in silk, of the striped scarfs and turbans worn by the natives of the east, which from their resemblance to the skin of the animal of the name, were called Zebras. Very extensive exportations of these articles were made to the islands in the Grecian Archipelago, and to Turkey. An attempt was made to supersede them by means of printed goods, which had nearly the same appearance at first sight; but the circumstance of the adherents of the Koran having been, by the precepts of their prophet, prohibited the use of all stained articles of manufacture, soon put a stop to this sort of traffic. This trade is still carried on at Paisley, though not to the same extent as it was some years ago.

Still the great desideratum was a more strict imitation of the real India or genuine cashmere shawls. This was accomplished to a considerable extent by mixing fine wool and silk waste together; the yarn spun for this mixture being called Persian yarn. This, however, was only fitted for the west, which was generally shot upon a silk warp. Something was still wanting to approximate more nearly to the India fabric. Several attempts were made in Norwich, Edinburgh, and Paisley, but none of these succeeded. At length, a house in Yorkshire produced an article which was very much liked in the market, in consequence of its fine soft feel; and which they called *thibet cloth*. It was nothing more nor less than a tweeled fabric of fine worsted yarn made from the best of wool, and when scoured, raised, and cropped, it had a beautiful appearance. The house purchased borders in Paisley, and elsewhere, which they sewed to this cloth, and these thibet shawls made in Yorkshire had a long run. The Paisley manufacturers at length succeeded in bringing this branch also to town, and for several years it was one of the chief staples of the shawl trade. Still, however, no figures could be produced on the thibet ground. The yarn was too tender to stand harness work; so that in reality, although the India fabric was approached pretty nearly, a wide gap still remained. At length, some French shawls were introduced, so closely resembling the India, that it was difficult to discriminate between the two. Enquiries were set on foot, when it was found that the

French had been making shawls for some years back, from the genuine Cashmere wool; and that they not only imported the wool from the east of Europe, but that they had a great many cashmere goats rearing in France. It became therefore an object to get some of the French yarn over. This was accomplished, and the first cashmere cloth was made in Paisley. Attempts were made to get the yarn spun in this country, but these may be said to have failed. No doubt a good deal of cashmere yarn was spun in this country, but it wanted that softness which so peculiarly characterized the French. Some of the Edinburgh manufacturers began to make cashmere shawls, and some beautiful specimens were produced at Paisley. In consequence of the fall of prices, however, the expensive art that was at one time bestowed on shawls was greatly diminished.

In connection with the above, the crape trade deserves some particular notice. About the year 1823, the manufacture of crape dresses, Damask and embroidered shawls, exactly the same as those imported from Canton, was introduced to Paisley, and since that time a great many hands have been employed in making them. The dexterity displayed by the embroiderers in the town and neighbourhood, will bear comparison with that of any in the kingdom, and in many instances with that of the Chinese themselves. This kind of shawl is still (1837) made, although to a more limited extent. Indeed, the shawl trade generally has, within these very few years, undergone a great change in this place. The kinds of shawls chiefly made now, are of three qualities; the first is wholly silk; the second, half silk and half cotton; the third wholly cotton. The manufacture of such shawls has been increasing with astonishing rapidity for some years past. There are several makers whose yearly sales amount to forty, fifty, or even L. 60,000 Sterling. The total sales for the year 1834, are estimated at nearly L. 1,000,000 Sterling, and in 1835, they must have been considerably greater.

Machinery has of late been introduced to great purpose in finishing these shawls. Formerly each shawl employed a girl a whole day in the operation of what is called *clipping*, for which she got from 1s. to 1s. 3d. Now, that operation is done for 2d. a shawl, by means of a machine of a most ingenious description; the invention of a Frenchman.* By a very simple contrivance too, the expense

* These machines were first introduced from France in 1834, by their inventor, M. Vergniais, of Lyons. The cost was nearly L. 300, including carriage and fitting up. They can now be got of Paisley manufacture for L. 40, equally good, if not superior. The facility and neatness of machine-clipping give the manufacturer great

of fitting up that part of the loom which forms the pattern is likely to be much diminished. The Jacquard machine, (so named from its ingenious inventor at Lyons) used in place of a draw-boy, is now attempted to be introduced into Paisley, in an improved form, by a gentleman who has taken out a patent for the improvement.* The French use no draw-boys, and yet they produce the finest of patterns, although it must be acknowledged, on a small scale.

In this sketch of the progress of the shawl manufacture in Paisley, we must not omit to notice that most ingenious and beautiful species of shawls known by the French name *Cheneille* (caterpillar;) from their variegated colour and the softness of their feel. They are to be seen frequently in shops labelled with the words: "*velours au soie*" "*velvet on silk*;" a name very descriptive of this manufacture. Mr Alexander Buchanan, now of Glasgow, then of Paisley, is the first who produced a web of this description; and Mr James Taylor, at present one of the magistrates of Paisley, was among the earliest to appreciate the value of the article and to manufacture it on an extensive scale. These beautiful specimens of art and taste still maintain their place in general estimation.

All the trades depending upon the shawl branch have necessarily increased; in particular that of dyeing has been much enlarged. Fifteen years ago, perhaps forty or fifty hands were employed at it; now ten times that number at least are engaged.

Silk Gauze.—The silk gauze, since its revival about eighteen years ago, has progressed very much. Paisley now furnishes nearly all the silk gauzes that are used in the kingdom, with the exception of those imported from France. The elegance and taste displayed in this branch of manufacture, with the moderate prices at which the goods are produced, is really astonishing.

Cotton Thread.—In place of the linen-thread formerly made in this town, there has sprung up a pretty extensive cotton-thread trade. There are eight or nine factories employed in making this thread. They are propelled by steam, the whole power being about

advantage. We know some manufacturers that could not get through their work on the old system; but these machines enabled them not only to overtake the work, but to extend it, which they could not otherways have done. At that time also, we had to compete with the French, who in their superior cutting had a decided advantage; but they are now completely driven from our market; we mean in the article of shawls.

* The gentleman alluded to is Mr James Morison, manufacturer in Paisley. We cordially wish him success in the application of his patent. Mr James Mills, pattern-drawer, has lately attempted with success, some improvements on the common harness.

200 horse, and the value of the thread made being above L. 100,000 Sterling.

Looms employed, &c.—The number of looms in Paisley at present, is ascertained to be about 6000. Of these 5700 are employed by Paisley manufacturers; the remaining 300 work to Glasgow houses. About 2000 looms are employed in the country by Paisley capital, chiefly in the neighbouring villages, but including some hundreds in Kilmarnock, Perth, Largs, Strathaven, &c. The number of apprentices to the looms in Paisley is at present 728. The number of harness-weavers in Paisley at present, is 5350; plain weavers 650; female weavers 40; in all 6040. Each harness-weaver requires a draw-boy, for whom he pays on an average 3s. 6d. per week of his earnings. *

Register of Inventions and Improvements, &c.—It is matter of regret, that the expense incurred in procuring patents for inventions and discoveries, should be so great, as we are convinced that many ingenious men of the operative classes, both in Paisley and elsewhere, have from this cause alone been prevented from enlarging, as they might have done, the manufacturing genius and industry of their country. In a letter which we have just received from an ingenious mechanic there is the following statement: "As there is no protection in this country, an inventor is obliged to decline putting his improvements into practice, as the moment they make their appearance they will be pirated, thereby leaving him nothing, perhaps not even the merit of invention, for his trouble and expense." On the subject of "tables of prices," as affecting the progress of manufactures, we have received the following statement from a most respectable manufacturer in town, who carries on bu-

* The following observations, by a very intelligent observer, will still apply to the ingenious weavers of Paisley, with this difference, that the ingenuity then (1811,) employed on the muslin department, has been of late years, applied to other branches, which were unknown at the time when Mr Wilson wrote his survey.

"What was said of Bolton in the year 1793, may be at present strictly applied to Paisley:—'It is the centre of the manufacture of ornamental or fancy goods, and it is only by emigrants from this place that any branches of this trade have been transplanted elsewhere. The most ingenious part of the workmanship remains rooted as it were to the soil, and flourishes even amid 'many discouragements.' (Aitken's Hist. of Manchester, p. 262.) The condition of the manufactures of Glasgow confirms this; for although the muslin manufacturers in that city, which is only seven miles distant, carry on this business to an immense extent, yet in articles of fancy-work, they have always been surpassed in Paisley. In fact, the superiority of the Paisley weavers, in these ornamented fabrics, is so fully admitted, that Paisley is resorted to as the original seat of this branch of the muslin manufacture; and many weavers in this place are employed for these articles by Glasgow manufacturers. The most dexterous workers employed in Glasgow on these kinds of goods, are either natives of Paisley, or persons who have learned their business there"—Wilson's Survey of Renfrewshire, p. 255.

business to a very great extent: "These" (minimum tables for weaving) "I think are prejudicial to the introduction of any thing new. If a manufacturer has projected something which is entirely different from common, the case is immediately taken up by the Weavers' Association, and a price fixed on before the maker can know whether it is to succeed or not. A very respectable manufacturer told me, that last year he thought of trying something which he considered entirely new; but rather than encounter the vexation and turmoil of the Weavers' Association, he abandoned his project."

The social and friendly habits of the weavers of Paisley have, from a spirit honourable to all who have cherished it, proved inimical to the claims of individuals to the honour of exclusive invention. Unlike the operatives of some other places, the weavers of this town have always displayed a warm and kind-hearted spirit of reciprocal interchange. When an ingenious improvement suggests itself to any one, his first idea seems to be, not how he may hoard it up, so as to make the best of it exclusively for himself, but rather how he may render it as useful as possible to the general interest. And hence, it becomes the subject of immediate conversation in the shop, and is very naturally laid hold of as the common boon of all. While this social disposition has been unfavourable to individual interests and honours, it has not been on the whole adverse to the general progress of manufacturing skill. The suggestions of one have led to the suggestions of others. One mind has sharpened another; and ideas which may have floated in an undefined form before the fancy of one man, have, by mental collision, been moulded into the compact and tangible shape of a substantial and well-accredited improvement. Thus have the trade and manufactures of Paisley been mightily benefited by the application of different minds to a common object, while it might so happen, that no one individual could exclusively lay claim to the reputation of discovery.

The system of the division of labour may be favourable to the prosperity and wealth of nations; but it, is certainly not very favourable to the developement of original genius. When a Paisley weaver was the "vel Cæsar aut nullus," of his favourite web, he stood a much fairer chance of having his inventive genius called into play, than in these "degenerate days," when thirteen persons interpose their services betwixt the cotton as it comes from the spinning-jennies, or the silk as it leaves the throwsters mill, and the

same articles when placed on the counter of the merchant, in all the beauty and in all the tastefulness of finished productions.

It is scarcely necessary to add, that the prodigious extent to which machinery has of late years been carried into all the departments of industry, must prove unfavourable to the display of manufacturing genius, while we may notice it as a striking illustration of what has been called the process of compensation, in the arrangements of Providence, that the genius which is thus restrained in one department, is not lost to the world, but is simply transferred to another region of human activity, and develops its powers on a larger scale in the field of mechanical enterprise.

In the following historical and local notices, we have attempted a sort of register of inventions and improvements in the history of Paisley manufactures. The list is confessedly very incomplete; and it is matter of deep regret, that many names, well worthy of mention in the history of a manufacturing community, are "unknown to fame."

Mr Humphrey Fulton of Maxwelton, Paisley, was the first who introduced the silk manufacture into Scotland. In an epitaph upon him in the Scots Magazine in 1782, we are informed, that, "in company with his two sons he often employed from 400 to 600 looms, and in the various branches of the manufacture gave daily bread to 1000, frequently to 1500 people. Many with him, have merited of their family: few have better deserved of their country."

Messrs Walkers, father, son, and grandson, harness tyers in the warehouse of Messrs W. Fulton and Co. Maxwelton, have distinguished themselves by their ingenuity in inventing plans, and most successfully, for facilitating the figured work on muslins and silk-gauzes.

An ingenious wright of the name of Lamb, in the employ of the same respectable house, has distinguished himself by his improvements in the mode of making brocade frames and shuttles for facilitating the production of figured and ornamental silk gauzes.

The plan of the *fly-shuttle* and *lay* was brought from England above forty years ago, by Mr Herbert Buchanan of Arden, silk manufacturer in Paisley. He sent up John Robertson, one of his operatives, to Manchester to see the model, which Robertson brought down with him to Paisley, where it was immediately adopted, and is now universally used. It has, since that time, received many improvements from the ingenuity of Paisley weavers, the most import-

ant of which was the introduction of the "*ten box lay*," in 1812, by which a weaver can work with the greatest facility with *ten shuttles* without shifting them. The original "*fly lay*" could be wrought with only one shuttle.

The machine for the singeing process in bleaching was first brought into use in this part of the country by the late Mr William King of Lonend. It was first applied by him in the case of book-muslins which, about the year 1788, were in very great vogue, and preferred by many to India productions for fineness of fabric.

Among the most ingenious men whom Paisley has produced, Messrs Robert and John Burns, brothers, stand pre-eminent. Mr Robert Burns, of the firm of Houston, Burns, and Company, was the inventor of many curious and useful pieces of mechanism in the departments of Dynamics and Hydro-dynamics, as noticed particularly by Sir David Brewster, in these articles of his truly scientific Encyclopedia.* Mr John Burns invented the plan of *rollers* to facilitate the harness-work of webs; a plan universally approved of, and adopted by the operatives. He also suggested the machine for drying bleached goods by metal rollers heated by steam, a plan which has been universally adopted by the bleachers, and which is capable of application indefinitely in the field of manufacturing industry. In another and very different field, the same most disinterested gentleman produced twelve of the best potatoes reared from the plum, and exhibited at a public competition; for which he received a medal from the Agricultural Society.

In 1823, Mr Alexander Buchanan produced the first specimen of *chenille* shawl in this country, for his ingenuity in the invention of which he was honoured with a premium of twenty guineas from the Trustees in Scotland for encouraging Manufactures.

About eight years ago, Mr Claud Wilson, weaver in Paisley, invented a species of machinery, which has proved extremely useful in the manufacture of carpets. His genius not finding its reward in this country, he went to the United States, by special invitation, and is now at the head of a large carpet manufactory in that country.

Mr Alexander Lang, following up the plan of Mr Wilson, has improved upon his machine, so as to supersede in the manufacture

* Vol. xi. pp. 552, 554.

of carpets the use of a draw-man or draw-boy; and his machines have been adopted to a considerable extent, particularly in England.

Between the years 1826 and 1828, several unsuccessful attempts were made, both in Edinburgh and Paisley, to introduce Thibet shawls. About the latter period, Mr Robert Kerr, now a most extensive manufacturer, turned his attention to that article, and after a deal of trouble and expense succeeded; and in two or three years after, it became the staple article of the trade. One great objection at first was, the very high prices of woollen yarns necessary for such a fine fabric; and it is a curious fact, that when Mr Kerr was in England pursuing the subject, he bought the same yarns on the same day, in three different houses in Bradford, at L. 1, 9s., L. 1, 2s., and 13s. per lb. In supplying himself with this last, however, he took care to ask for *fine worsted*.

Mr Kerr has lately introduced an important change in the manufacture of *Cheneille* shawls. These shawls were manufactured wholly of Brutia silk, which last year rose to such a price as completely paralysed this branch of trade. In this emergency, he thought of applying spun silk of a peculiar kind, which he got made for the purpose, and which is termed *roving* or *floss* silk. It succeeded so well, that even the best judges could not discern any difference; and it may be said to have given this branch a new impulse, by bringing out the shawls intrinsically as good in quality and appearance, and at a price that will tend to make the consumption more general, and thereby make it a more permanent article of trade.

Messrs John Roxburgh and Son have lately introduced several improvements in the manufacture of the richest description of shawls in imitation of India, the most recent of which is the use of fine wool for warp. This is named the *Cabille* shawl, and is the first successful application, in this country, of the harness to an entirely *woollen* fabric. One of the finest of these *Cabille* shawls was presented to Queen Adelaide, October 1836, which met with Her Majesty's gracious approbation. A premium of L. 25 was given for the same shawls (November 1836) by the Trustees for the Encouragement of Manufactures in Scotland.

Messrs Scroggie and Gilchrist have been of singular benefit to the manufactures of this place, by the improvements they have introduced into all the departments of dyeing. Formerly all colour-

ed silks were got from London or Edinburgh; now, silks of the finest kinds, and all sorts of cloth, may be dyed equally well at Paisley.

In a register of inventions and improvements, the name of Mr Andrew Balderston deserves to be recorded with honour. This meritorious individual, though not a native of Paisley, has resided in it for twenty-four years. He was born at Dunfermline, and before he left it he had, in his capacity as a damask weaver, invented the most approved method of flower lashing. A Paisley manufacturer (Mr James Taylor) encouraged him to apply his invention to the ordinary fancy trade, and it has succeeded to a wish. Formerly one man was employed to read the flower; a second to take it down; and a third to lash it on. Now all these operations are done by one and at once. The system thus introduced by Mr Balderston has been universally approved and adopted by the trade. Mr Balderston has also distinguished himself as the inventor of the "cutting machine," used in preparing the weft for Cheneille shawls, a simple and beautiful piece of machinery. For this he took out a patent; but it has done him little good in a pecuniary point of view—the invention having been so frequently pirated. Our ingenious operatives would require "a patent-protecting association."

Cotton-Spinning.—The first cotton-mill in Renfrewshire, and the second in Scotland, was erected on the borders of this parish, at Dovecothall, near Barhead, in the parish of Neilston; but the first extensive establishment of the kind in the county was erected at Johnston, in 1782. These erections were soon followed by others on a large scale in different parts of the district, and particularly in the parishes of Neilston and Pollock, or Eastwood. Cotton-spinning commenced in the town of Paisley, soon after steam power began to be applied to machinery for that department of manufacture.* The locality, however, has not been found favourable to the increase of this great branch of our national trade; chiefly owing to the high price of fuel, and the expense of conveying the raw material from, and the manufactured article to, Glasgow. It is a remarkable fact, however, and highly characteristic of the enterprising spirit of the inhabitants, that, notwithstanding these obstacles, Paisley contained, in

* Even prior to this era, there were mills on the principle of hand-jennies; and others that were driven by oxen. The father of the present M. P. for Paisley was proprietor of one of the former of these, along with his partner Mr Davidson.

the early stage of this wonderful trade, a greater number of cotton mills than the opulent city of Glasgow. Forty years ago, or a little more, there were ten mills within the burgh, and New Town of Paisley. Of these four were turned into dwelling-houses; one into a weaving (power-loom) factory; one was burned down; and two were removed, and the machinery and materials sold by public auction. Most of these mills were on rather a small scale, the largest of them (St Mirrens,) being, however, a respectable establishment of 10,000 or 12,000 spindles. There are at present in the town two large factories, and one on a smaller scale. In the village of Elderslie, there is an extensive cotton mill; and in the town and neighbourhood of Johnston, there are eleven of various sizes. With the exception of two, which are driven by water, all of these are propelled by steam. The power employed in them all is estimated at that of 266 horses. The total amount of spindles is 90,000. The capital employed in erecting and carrying them on is estimated at L. 135,000; and the number of persons employed at them all is about 2700. The proprietors of these works have not been backward in availing themselves of the several improvements on the system which have been introduced since the days of Arkwright and Hargreaves;* and it is probable that the latest invention of all, that of the self-acting mule, will soon be generally adopted. "The adoption of the self-acting mule will aid much in enabling the spinners of Britain to maintain a successful competition against the cheap labour of other countries, which have less capital and fewer facilities for obtaining these improved machines, and less skill in their management when obtained."†

Besides the above, there is in the New Town of Paisley one power-loom-factory, for cotton cloth used in printing. An extensive factory is about to be erected at Johnston, for weaving cloth by machinery, which, it is expected, will give employment to 200 or 300 persons.

Founderies.—The iron foundery establishment of Messrs William Thomson and Co. has been for half a century in high repute, and

* Mr Neil Snodgrass, of Johnston, was the inventor of the "cleaning machine;" which was first used in the Johnston cotton mill belonging to Mr Houston. It has since received many improvements, and may now be considered "perfect."

† New Stat. Ac. of Glasgow, p. 145, Aug. 1835. To this article we refer for fuller details on the progress of improvement in the spinning of cotton, and particularly to the circumstances which led to the union of the patents of Mr Smith of Deanston, and Mr John Robertson, late foreman to Mr Orr of Crofthead, for the invention and manufacture of the most improved species of self-acting mules.

their improvements in smelting, &c. have lately added greatly to the extent of their business. The first steam-engine made in Paisley was lately set agoing as the propelling power to Mr Galloway's factory, Causewayside. It is of twenty horse power, and does great credit to the makers, Messrs Barr and Macnab, of the Abercorn foundery. Messrs Reid and Hannah, are extensive makers of gasometers, iron boats on the swift principle for canals, and factory machinery in general. Not a few specimens of their ingenuity and skill in the second of these departments are to be found, not in Britain only, but in several parts of the continent of Europe. There are in the town three brass founderies.

There are in the thriving town of Johnston, two brass founderies, and two for iron, on an extensive scale; with five machine manufactories, employing 120 individuals, and with a steam agency of twenty-six horse power. Indeed we are satisfied, from many symptoms, that this stirring and healthy place possesses in it the elements of a rapidly extending and wealthy community.

Printing of silks and other fabrics has lately been attempted in Paisley; but as yet it is on a limited scale. We have one large *tan-work*, the property of Joseph Whitehead, Esq. of Kilnside House. The structure, plan, and whole arrangement of this work, are such as render it one of the first in the kingdom; and we understand that in excellence of work produced it is unrivalled. We have three *breweries*, two of them on a large scale. We have also three *distilleries*, two in the town, and one in the country; one large soap-work; * seven extensive bleachfields: and one large silk throwing mill, the property of Messrs Hervey, Brand, and Co., of Glasgow.

Post-Office.—The mercantile progress of Paisley may be estimated from the yearly returns of its post-office, which have been as follows: 1720, L. 28, 13s.; 1769, L. 223, 3s. 8d.; 1809, L. 2814, 17s. 7d.; 1834, L. 3194.†

VI.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets and Fairs.—In the town of Paisley, Thursday is the weekly market day. During the year, there are four distinct fairs,

* This work is one of the oldest in Britain. It has existed for more than sixty years. The original firm was Messrs Christie, Corse, and Co.; it is now Messrs William Sim and Co., and the article produced at this work stands very high in the market.

† It would be very desirable, in a commercial view, that the postage to Glasgow were reduced from 4d. to 2d. The revenue would be no loser.

each of three days duration.* The principal of these is St James' Day Fair, as it is called, which is held in August. On that occasion, the chief resort of our inhabitants is the race-course, which of late has undergone great improvement. The Paisley races are of early institution, as appears from a deed of council, of date April 1608.† They have been usually run on the Friday and Saturday of the fair week; but the council, at a late meeting, have resolved very properly, that, in time coming, they shall be run on the Thursday and Friday of that week. Fairs are held at Johnston on the Thursday following the second Monday of July; and on the last Thursday of October. This last is a cattle-market. A horse-market is held on the last Friday of December. The fair which in former years used to be held at Thorn, about midsummer, has of late been discontinued, or rather is now held in the neighbouring town of Johnston, and is one of those above reported.

Means of Communication.—Paisley enjoys great facilities of communication with all parts of the country.

A post-office is established in the town, and there is another at Johnston. Our inhabitants enjoy the benefit of three departures in the day, for Glasgow and Greenock, and as many arrivals from these places. To and from several other towns not in the line of the Glasgow and Greenock roads, there is a daily post.

For passengers, a coach starts to Glasgow, every hour, from nine in the morning till nine at night, and as frequently returns from it. The communication by the canal is nearly as frequent. Twice a-day in summer, and once in winter, a coach passes through Paisley, from Glasgow to Beith and Saltcoats, as well as from Beith

* The first, in the course of the year, begins on the third Thursday of February, the second on the third Thursday of May, the third on the third Thursday of August, and the fourth on the second Thursday of November.

† "It is concluded that ane silver bell be made of 4 oz. weight, with all diligence, for ane horse race yearly, to be appointed within this burgh, and the bounds and day for running thereof to be set down by advice of my Lord Earl of Abercorn, Lord Paisley and Kilpatrick."

"In the course of the following century, this new taste of our ancestors had gained such ground, that their excessive passion for the turf called for the interposition of Parliament. The preamble of Stat. 1621, chap. 14th, is in these terms: "Considering the monyfold evillis and inconvenientis whiche ensew upoun carding and dyceing and horse racing, whiche are now over much frequented in this countrey, to the gryit prejudice of the legis; and becaus honest men ought not expect that anye wyning hade at anye of the games above-written, can do thame guid or prosper," &c. —Miscellany of the Maitland Club, printed in the year 1833, p. 197. The statute goes on to limit all wagers upon horse races to the sum of one hundred merks, under penalty of forfeiture of the surplus to the poor of the parish."

and Saltcoats to Glasgow. There are also coaches to and from Renfrew and Neilston.

About three years ago, steam-coaches plied between Glasgow and Paisley, till a fatal accident, occasioned by the bursting of a boiler, put a period to the speculation.

Roads and Bridges.—The roads on which the coaches travel are all turnpike, and they, as well as the other roads in the parish, are, in general, kept in excellent repair. The principal one through the parish and town of Paisley is the road from Glasgow, which leaves the Abbey parish on the west, at the distance of about nine miles from its entrance into it on the east. It crosses a bridge over the Cart, which connects the new town with the old, and which at one period was the only bridge at Paisley. One of the arches of this bridge, or rather of its predecessor, was ribbed beneath, indicating a style of architecture, said to have been prevalent in the fifteenth century. Besides this bridge, there are other two which form, each a communication between the Abbey and town parishes. One of these is the Seedhill bridge, said to have been built of stones obtained from the ruins of part of the Abbey building, and which is near the Seedhill Craigs, once a favourite salmon leap, and where we are informed, the fish were often shot in their attempts, to reach the upper part of the river. The other is the Sneddon bridge, a little above the present harbour. Besides these, the Cart, in its progress through the parish, is crossed by other two bridges, one about a mile, and the other about two miles above any of those which connect the new and old towns of Paisley.

Canal.—The Glasgow, Paisley, and Ardrossan Canal was originally intended to proceed from Glasgow to the sea at Ardrossan, a distance of about thirty miles, in nearly a straight line, and a great part of the way through a deep valley. The adjoining country, through which it would have passed, is very populous,—the city of Glasgow, at the one end of it, being the second in Britain in point of population; while along its course, at short intermediate distances, are the towns of Paisley, Johnston, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch, Kilbirnie, Beith, Dalry, Kilwinning, Stevenston, Saltcoats, and Ardrossan—containing, in all, about 400,000 inhabitants. Besides, the country itself abounds in minerals, such as coal, iron, limestone, &c. An act of Parliament was obtained in 1805; and the first general meeting of the Canal Company was held at Paisley, on the 17th of July 1806. The operations com-

menced in May 1807; and the navigation between Paisley and Johnston was opened about the 10th November 1810;* and that between Glasgow and Paisley on 4th October 1811. This cut between Glasgow and Johnstone, 11 miles in length, is all of the canal that has yet been completed. The breadth at the surface is 28 feet, and the depth $4\frac{1}{2}$. In its progress it passes through two tunnels,—one under the Causewayside Street of Paisley, 240 feet long; and the other near the west end of the town, 210 feet in length. The chief aqueduct bridge formed for this canal is over the river Cart, on the east side of Paisley. It is 240 feet in length, 27 in breadth, and 30 in height, with a span whose fine arch is not less than 84. The present cut is supplied with water from several brooks betwixt Paisley and Johnston. Its actual cost is said to have been not less than L. 130,000, a sum greatly beyond the original calculation. So level is the ground through which the cut has been formed, that it has not been found necessary to construct any lock, during its course.

Besides the vessels for the transportation of goods, there were formerly employed on this canal two, and sometimes three boats, for the conveyance of passengers. These were elegantly fitted up, and calculated to carry 100 passengers each. Of late, this sort of navigation has been prodigiously increased, by means of the gig-boat for passengers, an immense improvement on the former track-boat. It is the invention of an ingenious and enterprising gentleman, William Houston, Esq., Johnston Castle, who has devoted much of his valuable time and talents to the prosperity of the town and commerce of Johnston. One of these gig-boats starts every hour, from nine in the morning till nine at night, from Port-Eglington, Glasgow, for Paisley; and from nine in the morning till eight at night from the Canal Basin, Paisley, for Glasgow. The voyage is made within the hour. The intercourse, by the same means, between Paisley and Johnston, is frequent. From the 1st of October, 1835, to the 30th of September, 1836, the number of passengers by these boats was 423,186; the fares drawn from them amounted to upwards of L. 9000. There are about sixty-four horses employed for the

* On the 10th of November, a few days after the canal was opened between Paisley and Johnston, a very melancholy accident happened at the basin, near Barsley Street, in consequence of which eighty-five individuals lost their lives. It was occasioned by the heeling of the boat, while crowded with passengers, by which more than 200 individuals were thrown into the water. Of this accident, a particular account, written by the late Mr D. Wallace, is given in Dr Burns's Historical Dissertations on the State of the Poor, p. 116, 1st edit.

gig-boats, besides fourteen for the luggage-boats, &c. This canal affords employment for upwards of fifty-two men and seventeen boys.

The following table shews the progressive increase of passengers, by this canal, for six years.

In 1831, they amounted to	79,455
1832, -	148,516
1833, -	240,062
1834, -	307,275
1835, -	373,290
1836, -	423,186

The number of tons conveyed by the canal, for each of the last six years, is as follows :

1831, -	48,191
1832, -	51,198
1833, -	53,194
1834, -	57,853
1835, -	60,510
1836, -	67,305

Railways.—Besides the communication to the Clyde, by means of the Cart, a company was formed sometime ago, with the view of forming a railway, to proceed from the New Town of Paisley to the Clyde, a little below the present landing-place at Renfrew. On this railway, both goods and passengers will be conveyed. It is now finished, and will be opened in the course of a few weeks.

A railway is also in contemplation from Glasgow to Greenock, and another from Glasgow to Ayr, and Kilmarnock, and other towns in Ayrshire, which is expected to form part of the great railway from Glasgow to London. Both of these will pass nearly through the centre of Paisley, and will prove of great commercial and trading benefit to the place.

Increase of Travelling.—It may afford some idea of the great increase of travelling in this neighbourhood, if we bear in mind, that in 1814, only once a week, on the Glasgow market-day, a coach started from Paisley, to convey merchants to Glasgow, and bring them home in the evening, whereas in 1834, just twenty years from the former period, the passengers by the coaches to and from Glasgow were about 200 daily. But we must add to these the passengers by the canal during that year, estimated at 307,275, and those by the Cart coastways, not fewer than 46,080, in order to form some idea of this vast increase; and yet, to how much greater an extent, may we expect, it will be carried, when the different railways in contemplation are finished.

RENFREW.

T

*Supply of Water.**—At present, the inhabitants of Paisley are by no means well supplied with water. Some of them draw their supply from public and private wells, and from barrels and cisterns, into which rain is conveyed from the roofs of houses; and a great many families purchase it from individuals, who make a trade of carting it along the streets, in large barrels, and selling it at the rate of one penny for ten gallons. The water thus sold is partly filtered from the Cart, and partly supplied from wells and springs in the surrounding country. A supply so inadequate to the comfort of the inhabitants, and the wants of public works, induced the formation of a Water Company in 1825, who proposed to obtain water by raising it, from the river, immediately above the town. But after the capital had been subscribed, and an Act of Parliament obtained, objections, by the proprietors of the Sacel and Seedhill Mills, to the abstraction of water, without an amount of compensation, to which the company were unwilling or unable to agree, caused the scheme to be abandoned.

Engineers having stated, that, in their opinion, a sufficient supply of water for the town could not be procured from any other source, all hope of obtaining it was abandoned, till our respected townsman, James Kerr, M. D., after a laborious examination of the Gleniffer hills, called the attention of the public, to the practicability of procuring from that source an ample supply, by the formation of one or more large reservoirs. Mr Thom, civil-engineer, was then employed to examine and report upon the scheme, and his report having been highly satisfactory, a capital of £.40,000 was speedily subscribed, and, in 1835, an Act of Parliament for carrying the scheme into effect obtained.

The company are preparing to intercept the drainage of more than 1600 acres, on the north eastern side of the Gleniffer Braes, comprehending the sources of the Espedair and Harelaw burns.† Of this drainage, the altitude ranges from 135 to 750 feet above the level of the sea. Two capacious reservoirs, one of them having a maximum depth of 32 feet, and the other of 49, covering nearly 100 acres, and capable of containing about 91 millions of cubic feet of water, are in the course of formation. The reservoir nearest the town, is to be formed with two divisions, in order to have

* This notice of the supply of water was furnished by Mr W. Kerr, Surgeon, of this town; and Mr Stirrat at Netherowigs.

† The Act of Parliament gives power to intercept the drainage of 2800 acres. Sheffield, which is supplied from a large reservoir, derives its water from only 1900 acres.

at all times one in which the water may be allowed to settle, so that the expense of filtration may be lessened or avoided. From this reservoir, the water will be conveyed to the town, a distance of only a mile, along a stone conduit, lying near the surface of the ground. The termination of the conduit will be at a point high enough to distribute water to every street in Paisley.

Six bleachfields and print-fields, having reservoirs attached, to the extent of 5 millions of cubic feet of water, are situated on the Espedair burn. Of these, two depend entirely, and the others chiefly, upon water from the drainage proposed to be intercepted. Hence some difficulty was experienced, in arranging with the proprietors of these works, the terms on which they would part with the surplus water of the streams. At length, the proprietors made a proposal, which was agreed to by the company, and has been confirmed by Act of Parliament, which, for its simplicity and easy adaptation to such undertakings, is worthy of special notice. Allowing for loss of water by evaporation and otherwise, an annual depth of 18 inches is supposed to flow into the reservoirs, from the whole of the ground intercepted. Three-fourths of this quantity are to be the property of the company, and one-fourth is to belong to the proprietors of the works on the stream; and this last portion is to be so let out from the reservoirs, as to form a constant and uniform stream. Should, however, a larger quantity of water than 18 inches annually be available to the reservoirs, measurements are to be made for three years, when the fourth part of the average annual quantity, then determined, is to be fixed as the amount of compensation in all time coming, provided the quantity thus measured be not less than 18 inches, which quantity is to be the minimum.

No money has been given to the proprietors of public works, a steady and sufficient stream being admitted to be an adequate compensation.

The lower reservoir will be highly ornamental to the country, and the terraces formed by the large drains, which are intended to run almost horizontally along the brow and base of the classic braes of Gleniffer, will afford some of the most delightful prospects in Renfrewshire. The committee of management commenced their operations some months ago, and they expect to finish them in the course of two years.*

* It is an interesting fact, that the principle on which the present undertaking is founded, was acted upon at Constantinople, in the fifth century. The rivulets in the neighbourhood of that city, being evaporated in summer, to an insignificant size, six

Supply of Gas.—A company, with the view of lighting Paisley with gas, was incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1823, the capital being L.16,000, which has since been doubled. The works are on an extensive scale, and advantageously situated, occupying an area of about two acres of ground, besides the space occupied by the gas holders at Sacell and Ferguslie. The number of retorts is at present 52; but that number the company are about to increase. Each of these is capable of producing about 6000 cubic feet of gas in twenty-four hours; 40 of these have been in use this winter: last summer only 4 were used. The gas holders are 7 in number, 5 at the works, and the other two already noticed. Of the 7, four can contain of gas each 20,000 cubic feet, two, each 18,000, and one 16,000. The reason of placing two of these at a distance from the works is, that the pressure of gas may be equalized in all parts of the town and suburbs. The coals used in these works are brought from different places, but chiefly from Ruchill, near Kelvin-dock. The quantity carbonized from June 1835 till June 1836, amounted to 3224 tons 10 cwt. The charge by metre is 8s. 6d. per 1000 cubic feet, and the annual charge for one jet from sun-rise till 8 o'clock at night is 7s. 6d., till 9, 9s. 8d., till 10, 11s. 10d., till 11, 14s., and till 12, 16s. 2d.

Pipes have now been laid in almost every street, and the greater proportion of dwellings, shops, manufactories and churches, with the street lamps of the town and suburbs, are lighted with the pure gas, which the company supplies. The main pipes measure upwards of 50 miles in length.

The town of Johnston is also lighted with gas, as well as several public works, in the country parts of the Abbey parish, the gas being made within their own premises.

Management of Poor in the Abbey parish.—It was not till 1785 that assessment for the poor was resorted to in this parish; and the rapid progress of trade and population, with the consequent influx of strangers, will easily account for its introduction. The assessment for the first year was only L. 152. In 1792, when the old Statistical Account was published, it had risen to L. 415, and this sum, with about L. 125 per annum, arising from the collections at

reservoirs were formed to contain the floods of winter, thereby preserving an ample supply during the whole year.—See Mathew's *Hydraulia*, p. 230.

The city of Jerusalem was also supplied by Hezekiah, in a manner somewhat similar. See 2 Kings, xx. 20, and 2 Chron. xxxii. 30. According to tradition Solomon likewise constructed tanks for the same purpose. For information respecting these remains, see *Landscape Illustrations of the Bible*, Vol. 1st. On the subject of the ancient aqueducts at Rome, See Leslie's *Nat. Phil.* Vol. i.

church, &c. making a total of about L. 540, was sufficient for the annual demand for some years. The following is the progress of the rate since 1808, at intervals of five years:—

1808,	-	L. 1570	11	10	1827,	-	L. 2630	1	0
1812,	-	2179	15	6	1832,	-	2476	12	7
1817,	-	1531	7	0	1835,	-	2562	19	9
1822,	-	1661	1	1					

The assessment, as above stated, is in addition to the collections at the doors of the parish church, and other church funds, which of late years have averaged about L. 60. The only permanent fund at the charge of the session is a sum composed of various legacies, and amounting in all to about L. 700, the interest of which is applied to the poor.*

The ordinary management of the poor is conducted in the usual way by overseers, specially appointed at the annual meeting of heritors and kirk session, and by the elders of the parish. Monthly meetings are held for the purpose of granting occasional aid, and quarterly ones for entering paupers on the roll.

The following table exhibits, in one view, some particulars of importance relative to the practical working of the system.

Number of ordinary poor on the roll at different periods :

	<i>Old & Infirm.</i>	<i>Poor children.</i>
1785	- 90 to 100	-
1801-2,	- 158,	- 41
1804-5,	- 168	- 45
1810-11,	- 219	- 41
1816-17,	- 272	- 15
1822,	- 275	- 54
1827,	- 325	- 66
1831,	- 480	- 58
1835,	- 471	- 66

Highest rate allowed to the regular pensioners, (except when confined and in a state of derangement, in which case † more is given) L. 3, 5s. per quarter; lowest rate 6s. 6d.; average of the whole 18s. 11½d. The number of *occasional* poor is very various, but the average expense of this class may be L. 150 a year.

The principle of assessment in this parish used to be the real rental; one-half on heritors, and the other on tenants. Of late, this has been departed from, and an effort has been made to return

* Besides the above, there is under the administration of the senior minister of the parish, and three trustees, by direction of the Court of Chancery, the annual sum of about L. 23, the produce of a principal sum, left by the late Lady Grant, of Monimusk, and vested in the funds. This sum is distributed annually, in the month of January, to poor householders, who are not receiving parochial aid. Lady Grant, before her marriage to Sir William Grant of Monimusk, had been married to Mr Andrew Miller, bookseller, London; the son of the Rev. Robert Miller, one of the ministers of the Abbey parish.

† The ordinary charge of lunatic asylums is allowed, varying from 7s. to 10s. per week.

to the resolution adopted so early as August 1785; namely, to "proportion the sum upon the heritors, householders, and tenants in the parish, regulating the contribution to be paid by each individual, by his property in the parish; his trade, his means, and substance, and having regard to every circumstance that may render the contribution as equitable as possible." The stent-masters are annually appointed at the general parochial meeting in the month of June.

Some years ago, the expediency of erecting an hospital or charity workhouse in the Abbey parish was seriously considered. After due deliberation, it was finally resolved that the more advisable mode was that actually adopted, of supporting the poor in their own houses or in the houses of their friends. In a few special cases, the overseers have obtained admission for their helpless and lunatic paupers, to the Town Hospital of Paisley, on paying a reasonable board.

The following is the view given of "the duties of overseers" in the parish minute of August 4, 1785. It is well worthy of serious attention.

"Each of the overseers elected by the meeting shall take from the poor's roll, a note of the poor that lie most convenient for his inspection; but so that every poor person shall be under the inspection of some one of the overseers; and the overseer shall, before the ensuing meeting, inform himself minutely of the character, the age, and circumstances of said poor; what relatives they have to assist them; and what work they are able to do; so that the overseer may know as accurately as possible, what sum may be necessary for their support, and that thus no more may be given than what is absolutely so; and, as the prevention of any unnecessary rise in the assessment will greatly depend upon the attention of overseers to this part of their duty, it is unanimously agreed, that every overseer shall, for every poor person whose circumstances he has neglected to inquire into, *forfeit the sum of five shillings Sterling, to be applied to the use of the poor.*"

Management of Poor in the Town Parishes by the Kirk-Sessions.
—The sessions of the three parishes within the bounds of the original burgh are distinct and independent in all matters of discipline, but they form one *general session* for the care of the poor, by decret of the Court of Session 1782. Under its exclusive management are placed the collections at the three town's churches, sums arising from proclamation of banns, &c. &c. The average of annual collections at these churches for ten years prior to 1817 was

L. 754, 15s. In 1823 the amount was L. 745, 11s. and since that time the average has been about L. 700. The sessional income from other sources averages about L. 60 additional; and, by means of these funds, all the regular and occasional poor on the communion rolls of the Established Church and Gaelic Chapel are supported. The number of regular pensioners at present is 200, who receive from 6d. to 2s. 6d. weekly, according to circumstances; the average being a fraction above 1s. To some hundreds of occasional poor and poor householders, donations of money, coals, clothes, and provisions, are from time to time given according to circumstances. The business of the general session is managed by a standing committee, consisting of four elders from each session, who meet monthly for enrolling paupers, inquiring into cases, and paying the elders for any outlays during the preceding month for occasional poor,—a discretion to this extent being granted to the elders in their respective quarters, subject to monthly review. Each elder is understood to visit the regular poor in his proportion monthly, and to pay them their aliment. They are also expected to inquire into their general character, attendance on ordinances, state of the children of the poor as to education, &c. Prior to 1828 the general session had the entire charge of the *whole poor* in the three parishes, and their funds were aided by a portion of the hospital assessment, varying from L. 50 in 1809, up to L. 500 in 1827. But the burden thus laid on the elders was excessive; and an agreement was entered into in 1828 by all parties having interest, to the effect that the sessions, retaining their own funds, should take charge of all the poor, regular and occasional, on the communion rolls of the Established Churches and Gaelic Chapel; and that *all others* should be placed, by a civil arrangement, under the superintendence and control of the managers of the Town's Hospital. This species of voluntary agreement has on the whole wrought well. A prodigious relief has been granted to the elders, while their avocations as elders partake far more of the character of a spiritual agency.

On the first Sabbath of each year, an extraordinary collection is regularly made in the three parish churches of the burgh, which is devoted as a new-year's gift to the relief of respectable members of the church who, generally speaking, receive no other assistance during the year. As a specimen of the readiness of the congregations to contribute to the aid of this interesting class, we notice the amount of last new-year's day collection, L. 134, 12s. 8d. This

amount was distributed among nearly 400 persons, in sums which on the whole averaged 6s. to each.

Town's Hospital.—Till 1740 assessment was totally unknown in the town of Paisley. That year was one of extreme severity on the poor of Scotland generally, and the circumstances of Paisley, as a rising manufacturing town, tended to an increase of pauperism. In 1740, an assessment, to be paid weekly, was laid by the magistrates on the inhabitants, and overseers were appointed to allocate and to distribute it. These acted along with the minister and elders of the parish, in the joint charge of the poor. In 1750, the necessity of an asylum for maintaining the aged and infirm, together with poor and destitute children, was strongly felt; and for this purpose a substantial and commodious building was erected in 1752. It is built in a free and airy part of the town, and has a large garden belonging to it. The only addition made to it of late years has been the erection of a small lunatic asylum, which has proved of immense advantage both for the recovery of insane persons, and the safe and comfortable keeping of such as are fatuous and incurable. The house is under the management of fifteen directors, who are chosen annually,—three from the town council; one from each parish session; and the rest by the rate-payers from among the inhabitants at large. It is conducted on the strictest principles of economy, and with great attention to health, cleanliness, and good order, and has hitherto answered the ends of its institution, as much perhaps as any erection of the kind. It is visited daily by an experienced surgeon, annually chosen by the directors, and paid out of the funds. It is visited also weekly, and occasionally by a committee of directors, and a meeting of the whole number once every fortnight takes the regular superintendence of its concerns. The internal management is committed to a master, who has also the charge of educating the children; a clerk who, along with the treasurer, manages all financial concerns; and a matron, who, with one or more housemaids, has the more immediate care of the household economy. The master also takes charge of the employment of the inmates; for it has been all along a leading principle in the management of the house, that while the young are duly educated, the adults, so far as practicable, shall be employed in some kind of useful industry. The particular kind of work in which they have been employed has varied from time to time, according to the state of manufacture in the town. At an early period of the institution,

the principal work for both old and young was spinning of cotton yarn on the wheel; but since the invention of machinery, this kind of employment has been entirely given up. For a time, when the children were more numerous than they are at present, they were partly employed as piecers in cotton mills, and at tambouring within doors. At present, a few of the men are employed at the loom; the boys who are in any degree forwarded in their education are engaged in operations connected with the manufactures of the town; the girls who are beyond the age of mere children assist in the work of the house; a few of the women are employed in washing, and in attending the kitchen, some in winding yarn, others in sewing and knitting; but the far greater part of the inmates are employed in reeling lashes for the manufacturers. The produce of labour cannot, in a pecuniary view, be very great; but habits of industry are favourable both to comfort and to morals.

It is the custom for the master to take all the young people along with him to church twice every Sabbath; and, immediately after their return from the afternoon service, they are taken into the school, and are employed in reading the Scriptures or religious tracts, repeating hymns and catechisms, and other religious exercises till the time of supper and family worship, when they assemble along with the whole household in the public hall. Of late, it has been customary to ask the services of one of the clergymen monthly on these occasions. The duty of conducting daily worship, morning and evening, devolves on the master; but on those Sabbaths when the clergyman does not attend, and when the master is engaged with the catechising of the children, the religious exercises of the evening are conducted by one of the directors, or by a pious lay member or office-bearer of the church. The sick and bed-ridden are attended to in the same way, while the clergy and elders of all denominations have at all times free access to the inmates.

An annual examination of the Hospital School is held, when the ministers of the town, the magistrates, and directors are invited to attend. On these occasions, it has been customary for the ministers to pray with, and to exhort, the people both old and young. This annual examination is not only useful to the children and their teacher, as a stimulus to diligence and exertion, but it may also be considered as a seasonable pastoral visitation to the aged, many of whom are bowed down beneath a load of sorrows and infirmities, and stand in need of consolation, while others,

whose habits are depraved, require serious remonstrance, and grave rebuke.

The following table exhibits the number of inmates in the hospital, old and young, at different periods, with the expense of their maintenance :

1759,	46	-	-	L. 200	19	2½
1769,	51	-	-	235	14	9½
1778,	61	-	-	464	13	9
1789,	115	-	-	580	16	2
1795,	134	-	-	688	4	0
1800,	124	-	-	1138	19	2
1810,	134	-	-	1349	19	11½
1817,	155	-	-	1424	3	0½
1823,	159	-	-	1004	1	1
1835,	220	-	-	1347	6	5

If from the above sums we deduct the expenditure on repairs, furniture, and utensils; on children at nursing out of the house; on grants to the general session for the poor, &c. the actual cost of maintaining each pauper in the house will not amount to L. 4 per annum.

Till 1828, the kirk-sessions took entire charge of all the poor out of the hospital, and to this end were assisted by annual grants from the hospital assessment. Since 1828, the burden of managing the out-door poor, with the exception of those in communion with the Established churches, has devolved on the directors of the hospital, with the assistance of about sixty managers, chosen indiscriminately from the town at large. The mode of management thus adopted is essentially the same with that already described in the Abbey parish. The gross expenditure for last year on both in and out-door establishments of the hospital has been L. 2502, 0s. 9d.*

Distributions of Charity by Public Bodies.—There are six incorporated societies, (Merchants, Weavers, Wrights, Tailors, Shoemakers, Maltmen, &c.) who distribute considerable sums annually to their poor members; but the amount cannot be ascertained. Nor, indeed, can these distributions be considered as properly of an eleemosynary nature. The members have paid their terms of entry with the societies, and are thus entitled to relief as may be, with this limitation, that the precise amount is not settled as in the case of a friendly society, but is left to the discretion of the managers. The following mortifications are lodged in the hands

* For additional information on the subject of the poor in Paisley, see Dr Burns's "Historical Dissertations on the poor."

of the town-council, for the benefit of poor persons, aged and infirm, and subject to the specifications of the several donors.

Alms House mortification,	L. 259	6	8	for benefit of 3 poor persons,		
Mrs Armour's do.	55	11	1	do.	2	do.
Robert Alexander's do.	112	2	2	do.	2	do.
Robert Peter's do.	166	13	4	do.	3	do.
James Maxwell's do.	100	0	0	do.	4	do.
Park and Hutcheson's do.	200	0	0	do.	4	do.
Baillie Reid, a grant of land producing at present a yearly rent of	51	11	3	do.	4	do.
Miss Maxwell of Williamwood,	600	0	0	do.	3	families.

The above trusts have been judiciously and impartially administered, and much benefit has been the result to many poor individuals in old age who have seen better days.

Relief granted to the Poor by Dissenting Congregations.—The duty of granting relief to poor members is generally recognized by the dissenting bodies of this place. In 1817, the annual amount thus granted was estimated, from pretty correct data, to be about L. 650.* We have endeavoured to obtain a return of the distributions during 1836, by the four leading dissenting congregations of Paisley, but have received for reply, that “the information requested cannot be obtained;” as, “in present circumstances, there is a fear of the use that might be made of such statements.”

Friendly Societies.—Of these institutions, Paisley has had a due proportion. By the middle of the seventeenth century, we find them in operation, and by the beginning of the eighteenth, every trade seems to have had its society for the support of decayed members. About the middle of that century, these were again followed by a class of societies assuming each the name of a local district, as the “Croft,” and the “Maxwelton” societies, or the more general appellation of the “Princes,” the “Ayrshire,” the “Cumberland,” &c. Such was the assiduity of members in general, and especially of the annually elected deacons, during the period they were in office, to add to the number on the roll, that scarcely a young man escaped being a member of one or more of these institutions, of which, by the beginning of the nineteenth century, the town could number twenty-five, all in operation.

The mode of calculation, however, on which such societies should be founded was not as yet properly understood; so that although those in existence were productive of much benefit to the town in general, and to their members in particular, it was soon found that a miscalculation of the demands on them, or of the wants or dis-

* Dr Burns on the Poor, p. 16], 1st edition.

tress they were intended to relieve, would speedily bring about their ruin. As they declined, however, others arose in their room both in the town and Abbey parishes.

Hitherto, no observations had been made, on the proportions existing between the periods of health and of sickness; nor was it possible, from the nature of these societies, which gave out their aliment as a matter more of charity than of right, to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion, by an examination of their experience. It was seen, however, that a want of sufficient income was the radical defect, and to remedy this, the friendly societies then in existence demanded from their members, an annual payment, in addition to their entry money, varying from a penny to sixpence a week; and of these reformed societies, Paisley had twenty-two by the year 1810. Although for a time the funds of these associations rapidly increased, there was still a defect in their constitution. The anxiety of their promoters to remove all idea of charity, from the minds of the receivers, made it imperative on every member, whatever his station in life might be, to take his aliment, and thus the demands were again increased to a higher rate than the supplies could afford. One great point, however, was gained, that of the ratio of health and sickness, which put it in the power of the calculator, to fix the amount of aliment that a society might allow, from a given contribution, or from the amount of aliment required, to fix the necessary contribution. With this view, in 1815, one of the societies, consisting of 450 members, appointed a committee to examine its own operations, from the date of its commencement in 1802. The experience of other five societies was afterwards obtained. In 1820, the subject was taken up by the Highland Society of Scotland, and in returns made to them, the experience of seventy-nine associations was procured; and it is worthy of remark, that the proportions found to exist, in the six societies in Paisley, whose operations were examined, scarcely varied from that of the seventy-nine, furnished to the Highland Society. We subjoin a copy of the result of the annual examination of the operation of the society, which gave rise to the improved system, from which it will be seen that these useful institutions are now based on such rational and scientific principles as may secure their permanence, and that, by a method which requires on the part of the accountant or clerk to the society, only a knowledge of the common rules of arithmetic.

Result of examination of the operations of the Young Friendly Society in 1835.

Age.	No. of members.	Sickness to an individ.	Sickness to the society.	Mortality to an individ.	Mortality to the society.	Age.	No. of members.	Sickness to an individ.	Sickness to the society.	Mortality to an individ.	Mortality to the society.
21	13	.575	7.475	.0101	.1313	44	11	.902	9.922	.0159	.1749
22	8	.576	4.608	.0102	.0816	45	8	.962	7.696	.0174	.1392
23	10	.578	5.780	.0103	.1030	46	16	1.032	16.512	.0179	.2864
24	4	.581	2.324	.0104	.0416	47	12	1.108	13.296	.0182	.2184
25	5	.585	2.925	.0105	.0525	48	6	1.186	7.116	.0185	.1110
26	4	.590	2.360	.0106	.0424	49	9	1.272	11.448	.0189	.1701
27	3	.596	1.788	.0108	.0324	50	15	1.361	20.415	.0193	.2895
28	4	.603	2.412	.0109	.0436	51	16	1.431	25.216	.0212	.3392
29	7	.611	4.277	.0110	.0770	52	11	1.541	16.951	.0217	.2387
30	8	.621	4.968	.0111	.0888	53	7	1.633	11.431	.0221	.1547
31	7	.631	4.417	.0120	.0840	54	12	1.726	20.712	.0226	.2712
32	9	.641	5.769	.0123	.1107	55	11	1.821	20.031	.0248	.2728
33	12	.652	7.824	.0126	.1512	56	11	1.918	21.098	.0255	.2805
34	13	.663	8.619	.0128	.1764	57	9	2.018	18.162	.0261	.2349
35	8	.675	5.400	.0129	.1032	58	12	2.122	25.464	.0269	.3228
36	14	.688	9.632	.0130	.1820	59	3	2.230	6.690	.0294	.0808
37	19	.702	13.388	.0133	.2527	60	0	2.246		.0303	
38	14	.718	10.052	.0147	.2058	61	1	2.250	2.250	.0312	.0312
39	15	.737	11.055	.0149	.2235	62	0	2.736		.0343	
40	13	.758	9.854	.0151	.2963	63	0	3.100		.0355	
41	20	.784	15.680	.0154	.3080	64	0	3.700		.0389	
42	20	.814	16.280	.0156	.3120	65	1	4.400	4.400	.0429	.4029
43	21	.852	17.892	.0158	.3318						
									431.788		7.0984

Aliment paid January till June, - - - - - £104 2 3
Do June till December, - - - - - 71 8 4

£175 10 7

There ought to have been paid as above 431 weeks at 8s. - - - - - 172 14 4

Over sickness, £2 16 3

There ought to have died 7.0984

Whilst there only died 7.

Owing on life assurance, .0984, in money - - - - - 0 4 11

£3 1 2

Four members left the society leaving stock, - - - - - £28 12 0

Interest received, investments at 5 per cent. £105 2 10

Do calculated at 4 per cent. 84 2 8

21 0 7
44 12 7

From which deduct the above loss, and there is left to be carried to the surplus fund, - - - - - £41 11 5

When it is considered that 45 of these societies exist in the town, and 5 more in the villages within the Abbey parish of Paisley, the members of each varying from 120 to 500, and each with a distribution annually of from L. 45 to L. 265, a hope cannot but be entertained, that the rising generation will not require so much assistance in old age as their fathers received, from the established parish rates.

Among the friendly societies of Paisley, we cannot omit noticing the "*Female Union*" and the "*Female Friendly*," both founded in 1820, and managed entirely by respectable females of the operative classes, and for their relief in sickness. They have succeeded on the whole remarkably well, and deserve to be extensively imitated.

Dispensary and House of Recovery.—In 1786, a public Dispensary was established in Paisley by subscription; and about fifteen years after, a commodious "House of Recovery" or public infirmary for the reception of persons labouring under contagious disease was erected. Additions have from time to time been made to it; and it now accommodates about 45 patients. It is managed by a committee, annually chosen by the subscribers, along with all those who may be annual subscribers to the amount of L. 3, 3s. and upwards. Its more immediate superintendence is committed to a house surgeon and apothecary; a matron, and two or more house-servants, as may be required. Six of the medical practitioners in town act as medical directors, and visit the patients in the house, and those on the rolls of the dispensary. Two of the managers, with a medical director, visit the house weekly, or oftener if necessary, and report their observations in a book kept for the purpose. In 1835, the patients admitted to the benefits of both departments were 1595; and the number in all since 1786 has been 36,268. The expenditure of the year 1835 was L. 466, 11s. 10½d.; a small sum indeed, when we take into view the immense good done to the families of the poor, and to the general health of the place. An annual report is published, of the numbers and cases admitted, with the several results, the lists of diseases on the journals of the house, state of accounts, and general management for the year.

The following table will shew the comparative number of Fever cases, and those of general distress, which have been received into the house during the last ten years.

	Admitted.	Fever.	Other Diseases.		Admitted.	Fever.	Other Diseases.
1826	135	101	34	1831	428	404	24
1827	192	164	28	1832	609	582	18
1828	335	313	22	1833	331	302	29
1829	186	169	17	1834	676	665	11
1830	110	92	18	1835	463	445	18

Philosophical Institution.—In 1808 several gentlemen of scientific and literary taste associated together for the establishment of a philosophical institution, embracing all the branches of physical

research, together with literature and the belles lettres. With the exception of the Andersonian Institution at Glasgow, no society of the same nature was at that time known to exist in Scotland. It was agreed to have courses of lectures by the members who volunteered their services, and these lectures were accompanied with free and friendly conversations on the respective subjects. The first lecture was given on the 2d October 1809, by a late venerable minister of the Secession church in this place, Dr William Ferrier; and its subject was, "The nature and objects of philosophical research." In 1812, the institution was incorporated by charter from the magistrates and council. From that period till the present day, it has been continued in various degrees of prosperity. While single lectures on miscellaneous subjects have been delivered, from time to time, by the members, a course or series has occasionally been given by professional gentlemen of the town: *e. g.* On meteors and meteorology, by Dr James Kerr; on Physiology, by Dr A. K. Young; on astronomy; and on Geology, by Rev. Dr Burns; On Electricity, by Mr John Kennedy, and Mr George Miller, &c. At different times, lecturers have been specially appointed at the expense of the institution; and among these we mention the names of Mr John Steele, Mr John Murray, Mr John Kennedy, and Mr Hugo Reid. The present lecturer is Mr William Patrick, a licentiate of the Church of Scotland, author of a volume on "the Botany of Lanarkshire," and to whose talents for Statistical research this work has on more than one occasion been indebted.*

Attached to the institution, there is a valuable library of 500 volumes on various subjects connected with arts and sciences, chemistry, natural, moral, and experimental philosophy and history. To this library, the Rev. Dr Chalmers, when minister of the Tron Church in Glasgow, was a liberal benefactor.

The museum contains a valuable collection of minerals, consisting of silver, copper, lead, and iron ores, of great variety and beauty. It contains also a complete set of the casts of the Elgin marbles, presented to the institution by the artist, our ingenious townsman, Mr John Henning. Among the articles of a curious and interesting nature may also be noticed, a set of large horns of the North American moose-deer; a set of spiral horns of the goat or sheep kind from the East Indies; Esquimaux fish harpoon;

* See Articles "Hamilton," "Cambuslang," &c.

matchlock gun from Java, &c. The apparatus consists of an excellent air-pump, and a variety of other philosophical instruments.

It is deeply to be regretted, that an institution so valuable in a moral, as well as in a philosophical point of view, should not have met with more countenance from the inhabitants of Paisley. We are disposed to think that, in the view of the erection of an academy, provision should be made in its structure for a large lecture room, which may be used also for inspections and public examinations of the schools; a museum, and libraries, both philosophical and literary. We know few things that would tend more to raise the tone of thinking, and the scale of educational attainment.

Hope Temple Museum.—The articles belonging to the Philosophical institution have been lately lent to Mr Small, Mr Young, Mr Duncan, and other patriotic gentlemen of the place, who have established a museum, with public gardens, &c. at "Hope Temple," a space of several acres in the immediate vicinity of the town, which had been tastefully laid out many years ago by the then proprietor, John Love, Esq. a native of the place, and whose name will long be fresh and fragrant, in the esteem of all who can appreciate the claims of genuine and enlarged benevolence of heart.

School of Arts.—In such a manufacturing community as this, much advantage would arise from the institution of a school of arts or of design. It would foster native talent, and encourage a taste for the drawing of elegant patterns. Lectures on the department of design, and on the general principles of taste might be given; and thus the belles lettres and philosophy might be made to pay homage to the genius of manufacturing industry. A repository for inventions, patterns, models, &c. might also be formed on the plan of the admirable agricultural institution of this kind at Stirling, so creditable to the Messrs Drummond. We rejoice that the plan of a school of arts has been seriously proposed here, and that several gentlemen of enterprise and capital in the town have resolved to give it their most deliberate attention.

Provident Banks.—The Paisley Provident Bank was instituted in June 1815. At a public meeting called by the magistrates, a body of trustees and committee of directors were appointed, and a cashier chosen; and the bank was opened in November of that year, under certain regulations, which were afterwards amended in 1820, and confirmed by the Justices at a General Quarter Session

in March 1821. No sum less than *one shilling* is received, and no interest is paid on any sum less than L. 1, 5s. The deposits are lodged in the Paisley and Union Banks. The general superintendence is vested in fifteen trustees, chosen annually at a general meeting of the subscribers to the security fund of L. 1000. A standing committee of six of these takes the immediate charge. The cashier is named by the trustees annually, and finds security for his intromissions at the sight of the trustees, who meet once a year for the review of the transactions of the preceding year, and other business connected with the institution.

It was considered of high importance, that the institution should contain within itself the means of its own existence, instead of being indebted to general eleemosynary aid; and on application to the Paisley and Union Banks, the only banks then in the town, they generously agreed to allow five per cent on the money to be deposited with them, which enabled the directors for some time to pay to the depositors four per cent, leaving the remaining one per cent, and interest on fractional sums, applicable to the defraying expenses of management. The rate of interest has since fluctuated according to the money market; but the directors have always been enabled from the same source to allow depositors the same rate as was generally allowed by the other banks to their mercantile customers. The subjoined statement will shew the yearly progress of the institution.

Statement of cash received and paid by the Paisley Provident Bank, since its commencement on 13th November 1815.

Received, including interest put to credit of depositors at annual balance 30th or 31st October.	Payments made to depositors, including sums paid into the Paisley and Union Banks on interest receipts for their behoof.	Sums paid into Paisley & Union Banks, on interest receipts in name of depositors, as stated in the preceding column.	Interest paid to depos. whose accounts were closed, over & above the sums stated as paid in second column.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1816, 1192 10 10	459 19 0		3 19 1
1817, 725 19 6	466 6 9		3 14 0
1818, 1312 1 10	699 5 9		6 7 10
1819, 1596 4 8	1445 0 10		15 16 3
1820, 1677 4 11½	1358 10 11½		8 11 3
1821, 2661 11 11	1626 5 5		11 6 10
1822, 3193 4 8½	2118 13 7½		18 2 10
1823, 2526 4 10	2822 18 6	380 0 0	18 16 6
1824, 2861 0 10	3037 0 10	280 0 0	18 7 5
1825, 3634 18 8	3072 18 5	710 0 0	14 16 8
1826, 2550 5 11	4183 10 2	1366 0 0	17 6 5

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U

1827,	£3012	1	5	£2419	18	4	£570	0	0	£12	11	9	
1828,	3598	0	10	3292	5	5	1125	0	0	14	7	8	
1829,	2753	18	5	3122	17	3	770	0	0	12	6	5	
1830,	3146	0	6	3189	17	8	1040	0	0	10	4	2	
1831,	3502	19	4	3025	8	4	1005	0	0	11	1	11	
1832,	3275	8	4	3367	15	2	920	0	0	13	18	7	
1833,	4428	11	4	3536	7	1	1115	0	0	11	17	7	
1834,	4804	16	1	4777	15	3	1260	0	0	18	7	6	
1835,	5091	7	10	4696	2	9	1365	0	0	16	1	5	
1836,	4520	6	8	5361	13	9	1255	0	0	28	12	5	
		<hr/>				<hr/>				<hr/>			
£62,059		19	5	58,080		11	3	13,161		0	0	286 14 6	

In April last, the Town Council resolved to receive small deposits of money on the security of the property and revenues of the burgh. Deposits of L. 1 to L. 30 are received by the chamberlain at his office, every lawful day; and four per cent. of interest is allowed. The sum deposited in this savings bank up to the 1st of January last has been L. 6040, 9s. 3d.; and the number of depositors 501. The first sum received was on the 14th April 1836.

On the same principle, the trustees of the River Cart did, in December last, agree to receive deposits of money at the rate of five per cent. on the security of the revenues of the river and property of the trust, from L. 1 to L. 50.

It is desirable that all these institutions should be consolidated into one large establishment, under the newly fixed Parliamentary provisions, so advantageous to institutions of this nature.

Of institutions of the nature of a *manege*, there are many in Paisley, and they have been the means of much good.

It is matter of regret that the principles of *Life Insurance* for widows and heirs are so little understood in this place. A favourable commencement has been made; and with one institution an investment has been insured by about forty individuals to the extent of upwards of L. 20,000.

Benevolent Societies.—The “Widow and Orphan Society” has existed since 1776. With its small property, aided by an annual collection, it distributes its bounty in money, provisions, and coals, among several hundreds of most needy and grateful recipients; and is deservedly a great favourite with the public. “The Female Benevolent Society” was established in 1811, and has been most efficient in the relief of aged female poverty. Its income for some years past has averaged L. 200 per annum; and it has been in the habit of distributing money, and especially articles of female cloth-

ing, among between 600 and 700 individuals. There are also institutions for the support of a school for educating the children of Roman Catholics; for instructing the Deaf and Dumb; for Gaelic Missions; for reformation of manners; for promoting temperance, &c. These are all conducted on the usual principles, and receive more or less of public countenance.

Jail and Bridewell.—These were erected in 1820, and, in point of situation, security, healthfulness, and general arrangement of rooms, are unexceptionable. But they are both grievously defective in regard to the means of solitary confinement, of suitable classification, and of moral and religious instruction.

In the *Jail*, there are nineteen apartments for prisoners confined on criminal warrants, and fifteen for prisoners on other warrants. Since the act was passed, limiting the imprisonment of debtors to sums above L. 8, 6s. 8d., *very few* prisoners of this description have been incarcerated; and thus greater facilities are afforded for accommodating prisoners of a different description. The number of criminal prisoners of all kinds during last year has been 319; and of debtors, 195. Of male criminals there have been 264; and of females, 55. Of both classes, 29 were under fifteen years of age. Of the whole number of criminals, 72 could neither read nor write. The number of prisoners at present, debtors and criminals, is 54. There are three small yards intended for airing grounds; but they are never used. Neither keeper nor turnkey reside within the jail, but in front of it. No *kind of work* is permitted within the jail.

The *Bridewell* contains forty-two cells; an hospital for the sick; and two airing grounds. The average number of inmates is 32; at present there are 39; of these 30 are males, and 9 females. *At an average* of the usual inmates, 6 or 7 are under seventeen years of age. A teacher attends one hour a day. There are at present 4 that cannot read, and this is generally the average. The inmates are employed in weaving, picking wool and foreign skins; winding yarn, veining or hand-sewing, &c. The produce of work in 1835 was L. 192, 18s. 5d.; and the gross expenditure was L. 273; the difference being made up by a grant from the police assessment. The diet is porridge and milk to breakfast, broth and bread to dinner; two meals a day; and on Sabbath, broth and a portion of beef are allowed.

The numbers committed during last year were 188; of these

133 were committed for the first time; 20 for the second; 6 for the third; 8 for the fourth; 3 for the fifth; 1 for the sixth; 2 for the seventh; 1 for the eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, twenty-ninth, thirtieth, thirty-first, and thirty-second times. In regard to the last four of these instances, it was the same individual; and this is commonly the case in four or five other instances. The inmates sleep in couples. Classification, silence, and proper discipline are attended to in this prison, to as great an extent as the limited space, and the supply of bed-clothing for the sleeping cells, will admit. A library of religious books is attached to the prison, under the charge, and at the expense, of a society of young men, who attend every Sabbath morning to give out and receive the books, and to converse with the inmates on their contents. The books are greatly valued by the inmates, and well used by them. Attendance on chapel is generally held out to, and viewed by, the inmates as a great privilege. This Bridewell is under excellent management; and accomplishes its end as fully as any one of the extent in the kingdom.

A chapel, very commodious and well arranged, is common to jail and bridewell; and divine service is regularly conducted on Sabbath evenings by the Established and Dissenting Presbyterian ministers of the place. Pious laymen occasionally visit both jail and bridewell, for imparting religious instruction; and a medical attendant for both is specially appointed; but *there is no chaplain for either!*

No subject of national police or of public morals requires more loudly parliamentary interposition than the state of the prisons of Scotland. The exertions of the "Prison Discipline Society of Scotland" deserve every encouragement; and their late admirable "address," with its very valuable "appendix," ought to be extensively circulated, and seriously pondered by every well-wisher to the best interests of mankind. Secretary of that society, Dr Greville, Edinburgh.

Faculty of Procurators.—The "Faculty of Procurators" before the courts of Paisley and Renfrewshire was incorporated by royal charter, 24th June 1803. The office-bearers consist of a dean, treasurer, clerk, three councillors, three examiners, and a librarian. Its members at present are 50 in number. The library is an excellent collection of the best standard law books. The faculty form also a society for mutual assurance in favour of the widows of members.

Medical Faculty.—The medical practitioners in Paisley and Johnston are at present 34. There is a “Medical Society” in the town, for mutual improvement by monthly meetings, reading essays, conversation, &c. A valuable medical library is attached to the House of Recovery, in whose committee room the society holds its meetings. From the funds of this institution, the sum of L. 10, 10s. is annually given to the library, as a small acknowledgment of the valuable gratuitous services of the faculty.

New Coal Company.—A company has been lately formed for working the coal in the fields of Hartfield and Meikleriggs, within a mile of the town. If the coal is good and in sufficient quantity, the additional supply thus furnished to the town will be of essential service to its trade and manufactures.

Periodicals, &c.—The Paisley Repository, 2 vols.; the “Harp of Renfrewshire,” a collection of ancient and modern poetry, chiefly the products of the district, with interesting biographical sketches of the “poets of Renfrewshire;” and the “Paisley Magazine,” edited by the late Mr Motherwell, and characterized by talent and varied local information,—may be mentioned as favourable specimens of the periodical and ordinary literature of Paisley.

Newspapers.—A very respectable weekly paper, entitled, “The Paisley Advertiser,” published every Saturday morning, has survived considerable opposition, and promises to maintain its present position from the fairness of its details, the soundness of its principles, and the judgment and good sense which generally characterize it. Its circulation is at present greater than at any former period. Another weekly journal, called the Glasgow Saturday Evening Post, and Paisley and Renfrewshire Reformer, is printed at Glasgow, and published there and at Paisley at the same hour. It advocates ultra-radical politics, and is eagerly perused by those who are attached to these views. Sixty years ago only one newspaper was known as coming to Paisley. It belonged to the magistrates, and it lay on the council table for the use of respectable freemen. Its name, the Edinburgh Courant. Now, there are comparatively few individuals above the lowest rank who do not enjoy the luxury of a peep at least, into one or more of these influential organs of public sentiment.

Libraries.—The “Public Subscription Library” is a valuable collection of miscellaneous literature. It now amounts to 4500 volumes, and it is supported by 200 subscribers. The “Trades Library,” supported chiefly by the operative classes, is a very extensive

and valuable collection of several thousand volumes. Most of the congregations have libraries of religious books attached to them, for the use of the members and the public. There is a library of theological books, to the extent of 800 volumes, supported by voluntary subscription. Of "Book-clubs" the number cannot be stated. They have long been in high repute; and their periodical sales have been the means of introducing many valuable literary works into the houses of the members.

Stereotype Printing.—Printing by stereotype has been lately begun in Paisley by Mr Alexander Gardner, Bookseller and Stationer; and we have at present before us a very promising specimen of the work in a neat edition of the psalms and paraphrases of a small size, and very moderate price. The psalms are accompanied with the valuable notes of John Brown of Haddington, abridged; and the paraphrases have appended to them what we never saw before, a short summary of the contents of each, with the name and biographical notice of the author. We understand that Mr John Neilson, long well known as a printer in this place, has commenced business in the same line.

Lithography.—Lithograph printing, writing, and ornamental sketching, are executed with great beauty and exactness by Messrs Robert Hay and Son, at the Advertiser Office.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In bringing our remarks on the town and parishes of Paisley to a close, we cannot help expressing our belief that this locality possesses an interest to which few, if any other, places in Scotland can lay claim. Whether we wander on the banks of its streams, or follow the antiquary to the ruins of its castles, or to the remains of its far-famed abbey, or dive into the pits of its richest minerals, or ascend the heights of nature or of art, and gaze on the extent and beauty of the scenery around, or accompany our intelligent farmers in their healthful occupations, or visit our extensive factories teeming with their busy population, or examine our schools and places of moral and religious instruction,—we meet with much not only to interest, but also to instruct. But deep as is the impression which the present aspect of Paisley is calculated to make, the impression becomes much deeper when we compare Paisley as it now is, with what it was when the old Statistical Account was published, and with what, from its continued progress, it is likely at no distant day to become.

Compared with its state when the Statistical Account was pub-

lished, forty-five years ago, Paisley has made an astonishing progress. In agriculture, those improvements which were then commenced, had rapidly advanced by the time (1812) in which Mr Wilson of Thornly published his excellent agricultural survey of Renfrewshire, to which reference may be made for farther information on this important branch of statistics. Since that period, again, improvements have been carried to a still greater extent; additions have been made to the land under cultivation; draining, in its different styles, has been introduced, fences are more particularly attended to, the most approved rotation of crops has been adopted, the most improved implements of husbandry are in use, and the recently erected farm-steadings greatly surpass those of former days, in neatness, commodiousness, and comfort. We have therefore every reason to conclude, both from what has been already done, and from the spirit which prevails among our farmers, as well as from the encouragement which the Agricultural Society holds out, in all departments of rural economy, that no improvement will be introduced into any county of Scotland, without finding its way to the parish of Paisley.

But the change appears still greater, when from the rural districts we turn to the town. Its population has nearly trebled. Its public buildings, its private dwelling-houses, its streets, its whole appearance as a town, indicate the advance of wealth, of refinement, and of public spirit. We have now a police establishment, well defined and effective. Paisley is no longer a mere village, of no weight absolutely in the political scale of the nation,—it has its own representative in the supreme legislative assembly of the empire, to express its mind, and to watch over its municipal and commercial interests. We have now our “castle,” with all its extensive and valuable offices for the public business of the county and the town. We have our bridewell, one of the best constructed and best managed in Scotland. We have our Coffee-room, reading-rooms, libraries, book-clubs, and weekly periodicals of intelligence. In addition to the “Public Dispensary,” which existed in an infant state when the last Statistical Account was published, we have now a commodious and well managed Infirmary or house of recovery. We have now, also, our societies or public associations for law, for medicine, for philosophy and the arts. In place of one banking establishment on a small scale, we have now two of well-established credit, and which the town claims as properly her own; three branches of banks which have their prin-

cipals in Edinburgh and Glasgow; and two provident institutions. Of Fire and Life Insurance agencies we have nineteen; and in addition, the "Amicable Mutual Assurance and Endowment Society of Scotland," established on the most liberal and economical principles, has here a prosperous branch. The old "Friendly Societies," which were generally established on fallacious calculations, have either died away, or are giving place to institutions of the same nature on better principles. Our visits to Glasgow, which, fifty years ago, were made at respectable intervals by tradesmen on foot, or by those who could afford it on horseback, are now made hourly, in all the varied modes which land or water carriage can command. These are some of the visible and palpable points of comparison between our town as it was and as it is; and looking on Paisley even in these external relations, candour must say of it, that it promises to be, in a higher sense than it has hitherto been, one of the great rising communities of Scotland.

But Paisley must stand or fall by its manufacturing industry; and it becomes a very serious question, what may be the state and prospects of Paisley in this respect? At the time of the last Statistical report, Paisley had enjoyed a lengthened period of manufacturing prosperity, and it continued to do so for a good many years after. Perhaps the most prosperous days for Paisley were those from 1803 to 1810, when the Continent was the seat of war, and when the maritime and commercial preponderance of insular Great Britain was propitiously felt in all her marts of trade. A good workman could, at that period, realize by the labour of his hands from L. 1, 5s to L. 2, 10s. a-week! The consequence was an overstocking of the trade, and a glutting of the markets. Some extensive failures occurred, and by 1812, a most serious check had been given to our manufactures. From that time till 1830, we have had our seasons of prosperity and of decline; we have waxed and we have waned; but never did our operatives regain their former position of gainful industry. Time and the succession of events work wonders, and for the last eight years Paisley may be said to have been in a prosperous condition. Experience has taught many salutary lessons. The branches of trade have been multiplied. Operatives have not been so ready to bring up their children to their own trade, but have sought out other means of occupation,—looking beyond, it may be, the magic circle of the family fireside, and sending them to a distance that they may benefit other places by those mental energies which might have

pired for want of encouragement and a fair field at home. The business of master manufacturers is now conducted on better principles. Their goods are not now entrusted exclusively to agents in London or at a distance, who might possibly feel little interest in an immediate and large return. Their eyes have been opened to the terrors of these dismal abodes,—bonding warehouses! Partners in the respective concerns have periodically gone forth to the great marts of commerce, to be their own salesmen, or agents in their own pay have been duly commissioned. Branches of Paisley houses have been established in London and other great fields of commerce, and the connexions thus formed have been of high benefit, both to the parties concerned in them, and to the trade at large. Improvements on machinery have been received with readiness by the manufacturers of Paisley, and applied to use on a scale which, when compared with former days, may be termed extensive. On the whole, we apprehend that the prospects of this place, in regard to the improvement and extent of its manufactures, were never more bright than at the present moment.

In anticipating the future progressive advancement of Paisley, in wealth and consequence, we count a good deal on the improved modes of communication which are at present in progress. That swiftness, ease, and cheapness of conveyance will, as a matter of course, lead to a vast increase of travelling, both on business and on pleasure, is strikingly illustrated by the fact, that the Paisley Canal, which used to have its 20 or 30,000 passengers annually, can now boast of somewhat approaching to half a million, while multitudes continue to travel by coaches or by waggons; and we have no doubt that the improved navigation of the Cart, combined with the formation of not less than three rail-roads, to the Clyde at Renfrew, to Greenock, and to Ayrshire, with corresponding relations to Glasgow, will add unspeakably to the extent of intercourse betwixt Paisley and a vast multitude of places of great and growing importance. Thus the conveyance of raw material, of coals, corn, and goods of all kinds in a safe, quick, and moderately expensive mode, will afford many facilities to the extension of our trade. A community which has hitherto been exclusively devoted to manufactures, and which has looked to Glasgow as its only medium of commercial communication, may gradually acquire a commercial character of its own, and thus begin to look up, like Aberdeen and Dundee, in the manly confidence of a rapidly growing independence.

When we look at Paisley in a moral and religious view, we have our hopes mingled with many fears. Since the last Statistical Account was published, the religious character of the place has much deteriorated. French infidelity and Sunday drilling, combined with other causes to poison the principles, and relax the habits of the rising generation; while the rage for political reading and speculation abstracted the minds of the operatives from the more profitable, but less exciting matters of religion and the Bible. In the meantime, our educational and religious means did not keep pace either with the advancing population or the growing degeneracy. Indeed, education amongst us has all along been, and even at present is, in a very low state; and so long as a decent pecuniary encouragement is wanting to that most useful class of citizens, the teachers of youth in elementary branches, we can scarcely expect any rapid change to the better. The income of many private teachers in this place and neighbourhood does not exceed L. 30 a-year. The means of public religion and of pastoral superintendence have not been adequate to the exigencies of a growing population; and that beautiful parochial economy, which the fathers of the Scottish Reformation handed down as a most precious boon to their successors, has become in this, as in all our large communities, little more than a shadow. The moral influence of the ministers of religion is attenuated just in proportion to the extent of surface over which it is diffused; while divisions among Christian professors, partly political, and partly religious, are not favourable to an harmonious, well-concentrated, and persevering assault on the strongholds of the common enemy.*

And yet we are not without our "lights" amid the "shadows." Even in a religious point of view, for intelligence and accuracy of sentiment, for zeal in benevolent and religious enterprise, and for general decency and sobriety of deportment, Paisley, with all its faults, will stand a comparison with any city of the same extent in the kingdom. From her pulpits, of every denomination, the

* Dissent in Paisley is of comparatively modern growth, and it has been occasioned chiefly by mismanagement on the part of the guardians of the Established Church. The two Relief churches, which are the largest of the dissenting meeting-houses in Paisley, are flagrant proofs of this. The West Relief was built in consequence of the refusal of the town-council to erect a church in the western district in 1781; and the East Relief was occasioned by a similar refusal in 1807, to abandon the plan of *rouping seats*, and to build an additional church. Early in that year, the general session had memorialised the council for a fourth church, but no measures whatever were adopted for its erection.

sacred truths of the gospel of peace are preached in purity. No place can boast of a more pains-taking and efficient eldership. No where have more commendable efforts been made in aid of church extension, and her becoming ally, Christian education. On the whole, the hopes of her best friends are high; and they are so, mainly because based on the assured triumphs of truth, rather than on the anticipated growth of commercial greatness.

From the following passage in "Bannatyne's Memoriales," lately printed by the Bannatyne Club, it appears that the Abbey and Place of Paisley was at one time a kind of fort of considerable strength.

"In the meantyme (Jan. 1570-1,) Paisley was taken from the Lord Semple's servandis be the Hammiltounes, and be thame keipit till that the Regent (Lennox) with his forces tuike it and delyvered the place in keeping to the Lord Cathcart. Great moyen was made to raise the seidge, and so to frustrat the poure Regent of that enterpryse; but God assisted him then so that he gat the Place of Paisley randerit without promeis or compositioun, uther than the Regentis will, undeclared." P. 82. A more full account of this affair is given by the Regent Lennox in his "Letter of Instructions to Robert Pitcairn, Commendator of Dumfermling, Secretary of State, &c." printed in the Appendix to this very valuable work of the Bannatyne Club, 1836. "Upone Weddinsday the xvii. of Januar instant, Claud Hamilton, accompaneit with Johnne Hammiltoun of Drumry, sonne to the Bischope of Sandandros, Arthour Hammiltoun of Myrretoun, and utheris of that name, with a nowmer of souldiouris, come and be force enterit in the Abbay and Place of Paisley, pertening to the Lord Sempill, now being prisoner and captive in thair handis; and hes takin sum of his freindis and servandis presoneris, and rest, spoilzeit, and away takin his horsis and utheris guidis being thair, and put a garrysoun in the samin Place and Abbay, intending to retene and keip it be force; the same being and continewing in the possession of the said Lord Sempill, sen the dispositioun maid to him thairof, efter the foir-faltore orderlie led, als weill aganis the said Bischope of Sandandros, usufructuar and lyfrentar of the benefice, as aganis the said Claud Hammiltoun, nominat successor to the same; and sensyn, the said Bischope in persoun hes cum to the said Abbay, and thair fensit and haldin courtis in name of the quene, the Kingis moder, minassing the tenentis that he will be payit of thrie zeirs rentis bi-

gane; and hes alredie begune and spoiled and reft diverse horsis and guidis furth of the grund of my awin propir landis of Dernlie and Cancklystoun. (Cruikystoun.)” In the reply on the Queen’s part to this complaint of Lennox, it is maintained that Sempill *had consented* to the surrender of Paisley, “quhilk being *ane place of sic strenth* culd not easselie be takin gif himself had not consentit to the same.” P. 362. A pretty fair explanation is also given in the sequel of the other matters of complaint on the part of the Regent. On 20th October 1572, the General Assembly complain that “messe is said in certane places of this countie,” and Paisley is particularized, and the civil power is importuned to use means “For apprehending of the messe sayaris, and also the hearesis, to underlye the law.” P. 278. Thirty years after, Lady Abercorn being a Papist, gave no small trouble to the session and presbytery of the bounds, and proved a great enemy to the progress of the Protestant faith. It appears that in Popish times, Paisley was one of the four places in Scotland to which pilgrimages were made.*

N. B.—Since this Account was written a dark cloud has come over our manufacturing prospects; but we trust that the stagnation will be only temporary.

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* Notes to Renfrewshire Characters and Scenery, p. 36.

PAISLEY, Feb. 13th 1837.